

Pressure builds for co-ordinated force to stop the terrorists striking at will

NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen's sympathy passed on to widow

On the day she should have been celebrating her 12th wedding anniversary, Yasmin Henty was grieving yesterday for her husband Edward, killed in the City bombing (Jenny Knight writes). The Queen and the prime minister sent messages of sympathy as friends and relatives tried to comfort Yasmin at the house in Clapham, south London, where she lived with Edward and their two young children. Mr Henty (below), 34, a freelance photographer working for the *News of the World*, was standing a few yards from the truck in which the bomb was planted when it exploded. He had been diverted to go to the scene of the alert while driving to the newspaper's office in Wapping, east London. The Queen expressed her deep shock at the injury and damage caused by the bomb and sent a private message of sympathy to the Henty family. Downing Street said the prime minister was "horrified" to learn of the death in the City blast after initial indications that nobody was killed.

The *News of the World* changed its normal red masthead to black in tribute to the photographer. Mrs Henty told the newspaper: "I understand it was Ed's job to do this. He was a good photographer, a loving father and a good husband. I've lost my oldest friend." Patsy Chapman, the paper's editor, said in a tribute in the paper's final edition: "He was a real newspaper man, cheery and hard-working. Ed would have been determined to take the best pictures." She added: "There's been an unreal atmosphere in the office. We didn't want to believe what eventually was becoming apparent, that we'd lost him. We currently have two journalists braving the dangers in Bosnia — but we never dreamed one of our people could be killed like this in the heart of London."



Liverpool St to reopen

Liverpool Street Station, damaged in the blast on Saturday, should reopen tomorrow at 5am. Bob Fenton of Network SouthEast said: "The damage, amounting to £250,000, is to 1,200 panes of glass in the roof." The station's £150 million redevelopment was completed only 15 months ago. Travellers face further disruption tomorrow as the Transport and General Workers' Union stages a one-day bus strike in London over wage cuts and longer hours in preparation for privatisation of London Buses.

Biggest blast yet

The Bishopsgate bomb is believed to be the biggest and most powerful yet assembled by the IRA on the mainland, with police estimating its size at 2,240lb, or one ton. Larger fertiliser bombs have been deployed in Northern Ireland. The heaviest device constructed in the province failed to detonate properly when it was driven into an army checkpoint on the border at Amaghmartin, co. Fermanagh, in November 1990. It is estimated to have contained about 3,500lb of homemade explosives.

Protesters converge

Demonstrators from the extreme right and left yesterday converged in London as the British National Party organised a march against the IRA. Police kept 250 BNP supporters apart from 1,000 Anti-Nazi League counter-marchers. BNP's deputy leader, Richard Edmonds, was cheered as he called for the death penalty for terrorists.

Former soldier killed

A former soldier in the Ulster Defence Regiment was killed yesterday by an IRA booby trap bomb under his car. David Martin, 33, married with three young children, died when his car careered off the road and burst into flames near Cookstown, co. Tyrone. Mr Martin is the 27th person to die in the troubles in Northern Ireland this year.

Security will be tightened for City prestige targets

By RICHARD FORD
HOME AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

TOUGHER security measures including parking restrictions and road closures are expected to be introduced throughout the City of London in an attempt to protect prestige targets from terrorist attack.

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, is likely to be pressed to provide extra central government funds to allow the City of London police force to recruit more officers to be deployed on beat duties in the nation's financial heartland. More prestige targets will be surrounded by no-parking zones, some parking meters will be withdrawn and pedestrianisation is to be extended to more streets as part of the City of London Corporation's effort to beat the bombers.

Michael Cassidy, chairman of the corporation's policy committee, said: "We could not take a third one of these attacks. Something has to be done to tighten security."

Mr Cassidy, who met Owen Kelly yesterday, commissioner of the 840-strong City of London police, predicted that big ratepayers in the City would demand increased policing. After the IRA attack at the Baltic Exchange in 1992, the corporation provided an additional £1.5 million for policing, although the Home Office eventually picked up the half the cost of funding an additional 33 officers.

Two hundred of the 4,000 parking meters in the City were removed and more would go in the weeks ahead, he said. In an attempt to protect landmarks considered prime targets for the IRA, parking restrictions have been placed in streets around the Bank of England and the Old Bailey. A 24-hour police guard has been placed on part of Threadneedle Street because the Stock Exchange is considered a prime target.

Mr Cassidy said: "I think our pedestrianisation scheme will be extended and we will want more intensive policing on the streets. I hope we can make more side streets pedestrian areas. There may be a case for greater police checks in the Square Mile. We tightened up after the Baltic Exchange attack. We will do so again."

The IRA's success in outwitting counter-terrorist activity will also rekindle demands at Westminster and within sections of the police for the creation of a national anti-

Widespread demands for the creation of a national anti-terrorist unit will be renewed after the City bomb attack

terrorism unit. As frustration grows at Westminster at the IRA's apparent ability to strike at will across the country, pressure is mounting on the myriad of police forces, intelligence agencies and Whitehall committees involved in fighting the terrorists to deliver more effective results.

One indication of the scale of anti-terrorist activity is the big increase in the number of warrants issued to intercept telephone calls and mail. In 1992, 843 warrants to intercept telephones were issued and 123 for letters compared with 539 and 32 respectively in 1990.

Yesterday, Sir John Wheeler, vice chairman of the Conservative backbench home affairs committee, said:



Clarke will be asked for funds

"There are questions that have to be addressed about how effective are the present arrangements. There are 52 police forces involved."

Two key figures in the UK's struggle to combat Irish terrorism have demanded the creation of a national anti-terrorist unit, but Kenneth Clarke is understood to believe that new arrangements giving M15 overall responsibility for intelligence operations against the IRA on the mainland should be given time to settle down and prove themselves.

In mainland Britain, frustration at the authorities' failure to halt the IRA's mainland campaign that has been running since 1988 forced a key change in responsibilities last year. M15 officers were given overall charge of intelligence operations against the IRA, usurping Scotland Yard's spe-

cial branch which had been responsible since Fenian attacks led to its creation in the 1880s.

M15, headed by Stella Rimington, passes the information to the police and other agencies. Up to a dozen officers from Scotland Yard work with M15 in central London and M15 officers are attached to the Yard. All intelligence is supposed to be shared between the organisations.

There is a national co-ordinator of police counter-terrorism investigations and a committee of chief constables which co-ordinates police work taking place in forces throughout the country. A former senior police officer is the linkman between the chief constable and the security services.

The Yard's anti-terrorist branch, SO13, headed by Commander David Tucker, is responsible for investigating terrorist attacks, arresting suspects and producing evidence that will stand up in court. An RUC officer is based at the unit, which works closely with the Garda in the Irish Republic. Another 2,000 Special Branch officers round the country work with the Yard.

The Yard acts for other police forces within Whitehall, where police sit on committees attached to the joint intelligence committee, which draws up long-term strategy for the country. The JIC includes M15, but not police.

Despite all this activity, counter-terrorist experts acknowledge that the battle to beat an IRA force of about 500 hardcore activists is at its keenest within the Republican heartlands of Northern Ireland and among sympathisers south of the border. For all the demands in the wake of atrocities such as Warrington and the City bombings, the police have cautioned against instant solutions.

Shortly before he became Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Paul Condon, warned the public that there was no "quick fix" to combating the IRA. On taking over he also said the terrorists would attempt to repeat their attack at the Baltic Exchange. On Saturday morning his prophecy was fulfilled.

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City unbowed, page 40

Coded calls make propaganda point

By JAMIE DETMER

IN IRA terms, Saturday's City bombing was a success. The disruption will not be overshadowed by a high death toll. The IRA seemed determined to ensure that casualties would be few, and struck when Bishopsgate is empty of the weekday mass of commuters.

IRA bombers gave at least eight precise warnings about the location of the bomb to police and news organisations. It appears that they bore in mind, although not for any altruistic reason, last month's Warrington blast, which killed two children. The warnings gave a propaganda victory to the IRA, in the past accused of inaccurate, late alerts that prevented evacuation of target areas.

The first coded warning on Saturday came at 9.17am to Sky Television, an hour and

WARNINGS

ten minutes before the blast. Other warnings followed — including two to Mirror Group Newspapers and one to the *News of the World*. An alert to Independent Television News came in time for a camera crew to film the bomb lorry before it blew up.

News of the World telephone received a call from a man who insisted that his words be written down. "The bomb is on the A10 road at Bishopsgate, between Leadenhall Street and Lime Street in EC2," he said. "There have been several warnings phoned and the bomb is due to go off in 10 or 15 minutes. Are you aware of that?"

The call was, in fact, three minutes before the blast, but the propaganda point was clear.

SDLP leader defends Sinn Fein discussion

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Hume, the SDLP leader, yesterday rejected criticism of his decision to continue talking to Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, in the search for peace in Northern Ireland.

Mr Hume denied suggestions from Unionists that he had publicly aligned himself with Mr Adams by releasing a joint statement on Saturday reaffirming the right of Irish people to self-determination.

Unionists believe that Mr Hume's talks — the second set of which occurred in secret in Belfast on Friday — are a big obstacle to the resumption of discussions between the so-called constitutional parties.

David Trimble, Ulster

PEACE TALKS

Unionist MP for Upper Bann, said that his party had told the Northern Ireland Office that it saw an "insuperable problem" a situation in which the "IRA" are represented by proxy, at the talks. Sammy Wilson, a Democratic Unionist councillor in Belfast and spokesman for Ian Paisley, the party leader, said: "There will always be the suspicion within Unionist ranks that Sinn Fein are indirectly involved and are using John Hume as a go-between."

Some senior figures in the SDLP have also expressed reservations privately about the way Mr Hume has handled the presentation of his meetings with Mr Adams and

particularly the decision to issue a joint statement.

Mr Hume said yesterday that the joint statement was a way of clarifying what had gone on in the talks and that it explicitly referred to differences between the SDLP and Sinn Fein about how self-determination might be achieved. "I have made clear what the purpose of the talks is about. I am talking to get violence stopped," he said. "I've made clear right throughout that I'll talk to anyone, including Loyalist paramilitaries, to achieve that." He repeated his belief that a breakthrough might be possible. "I wouldn't be engaged in the talks if I didn't entertain the hope of bringing violence to an end."

With the content of the

Bishopsgate obscures Warrington and the peace movement... the IRA will not be deflected from its core purpose by the supposedly accidental murder of two children

come to the negotiating table. While that remains an arguable proposition, what is beyond doubt is that bombings of this kind will continue, underlining that the main focus of the IRA effort has clearly shifted from Northern Ireland to mainland Britain.

That this is the case is evident from the speed and

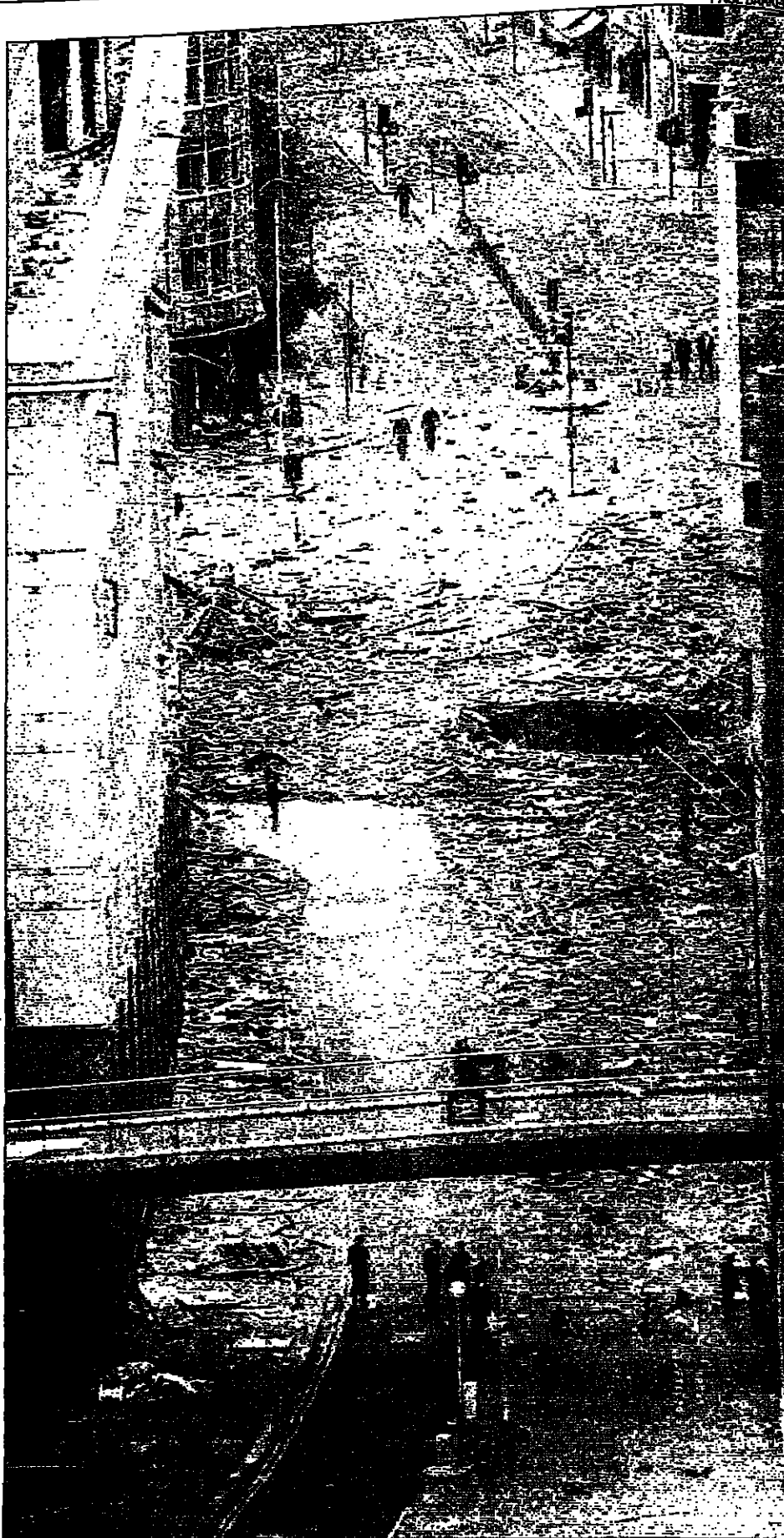
efficiency with which the organisation has been able to launch its biggest attack, in spite of having lost in recent months significant resources on the mainland in materials, safe houses and manpower.

It is notable that during the period that operations in Britain have been stepped up, the Provisionals have achieved relatively little inside Northern

Ireland itself, where recent bombing operations in Belfast have failed, where arrests are increasingly common and where Loyalist paramilitaries are now leading the killing leagues.

One IRA commander, in an interview with *The Times* carried out in Dublin, expressed irritation at the suggestion that IRA bombings in Britain now amounted to little more than "background noise" in the general run of life. He said he could not believe the bombing of the Baltic Exchange and of Staples Corner on the M1 on the same day could be ignored and he gave a warning that similar attacks were likely in future.

Politically, Bishopsgate is a reminder that talk of peace and ceasefires in Ireland amounts to little more than wishful thinking. Bishopsgate obscures Warrington and ridicules the peace movement in Dublin. It underlines that the IRA will not be deflected from its core purpose by the supposedly accidental murder of two children. As the IRA said in Dublin in a statement yesterday: "The leadership of the IRA repeats its call for the British establishment to seize the opportunity and to take the steps needed for ending its futile and costly war in Ireland. We again emphasise that they should pursue the path to peace or resign themselves to the path of war."



Bombers' handiwork: a sea of shattered glass flows south down Bishopsgate

Terrorists bank on their economic tactic paying off

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA has again succeeded in bringing what it calls "the war situation" from Northern Ireland to London, and has hit what it now believes is the British government's Achilles heel — its purse.

IRA commanders will regard the Bishopsgate bombing as among the most successful operations they have ever conducted and one they will no doubt repeat in London and elsewhere in Britain.

From their point of view the bombing had all the right attributes. It was carried out with what the IRA regards as sufficient and adequate warning. The media was alerted in time to show the world the haunting image of a huge brown cloud rising slowly above the City skyline. The devastation on the ground was phenomenal and there was "only" one fatality.

IRA commanders are convinced that the short cut to getting withdrawal from Northern Ireland firmly on the political agenda is to make Britain's presence in Ulster simply too expensive to ignore. They argue that damage on the scale of Bishopsgate and the Baltic Exchange last year is not sustainable in the long run and that it will eventually force a future government to

BISHOPSGATE

efficiency with which the organisation has been able to launch its biggest attack, in spite of having lost in recent months significant resources on the mainland in materials, safe houses and manpower.

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Hume: "I am talking to stop violence"

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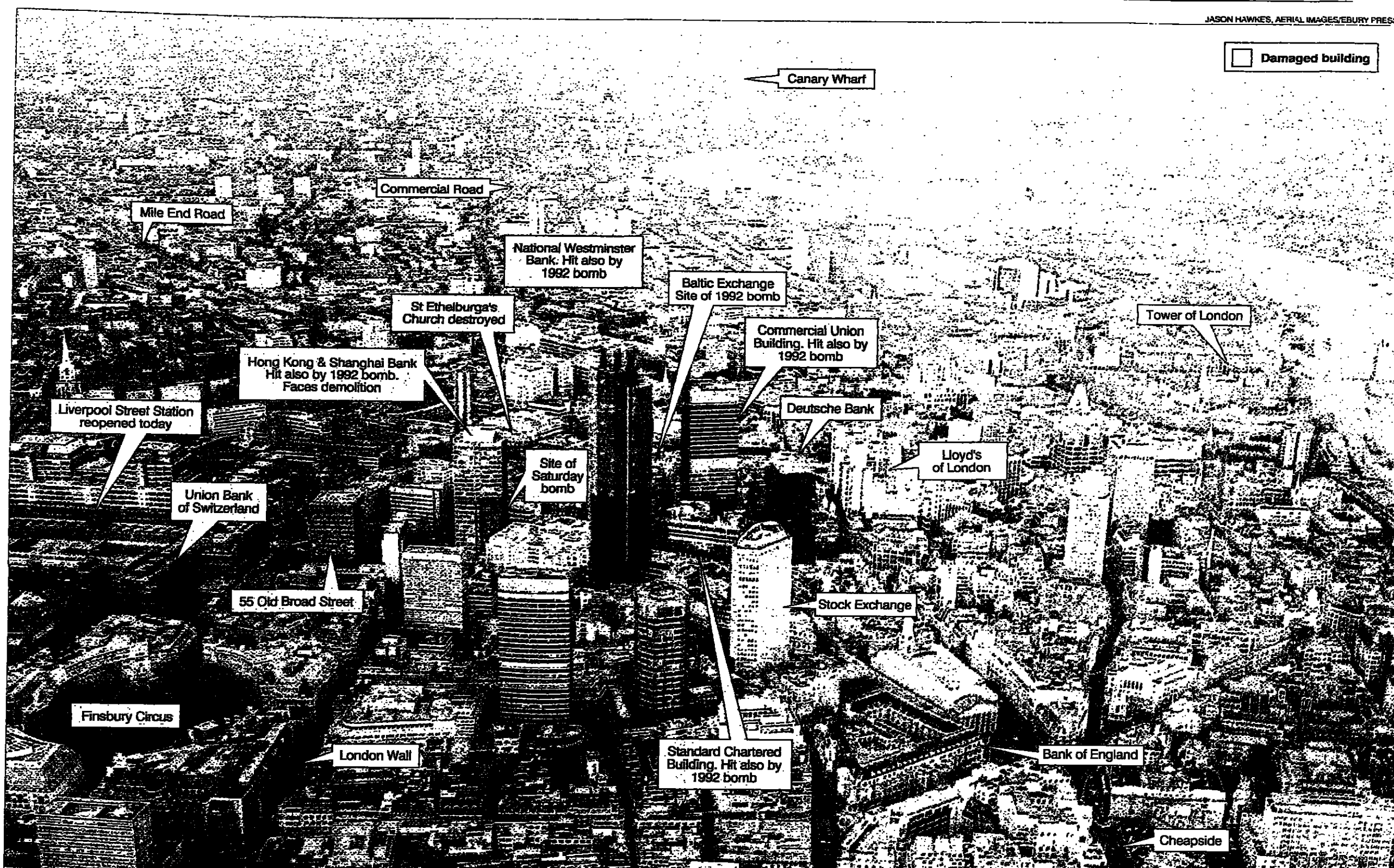
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Target London: key buildings damaged by the IRA's one-ton bomb at the weekend



Mangled aftermath wrecks Sunday calm

By JOE JOSEPH

AN IRA bomb, death and damage estimated to run into millions of pounds made bedfellows of the police, press, tourists, the Salvation Army, insurance assessors in anoraks and glaziers in search of business yesterday. There were far grimmer visions to come.

Gathering before dawn yesterday to swap greetings in a part of London that on other Sundays is as deserted as a Hollywood lot, they found streets paved with glass and metal, and white Venetian blinds flapping from office windows like some Gothic ticket parade.

At the heart of the blast in Bishopsgate, a 15ft crater yawned at the sky. St Botolph's Church, on whose site places of worship have stood since Roman days, suffered more damage than in the second world war. A large stained glass window was buckled, as if punched in the belly. Its lead outlines were twisted like avant-garde wrought ironwork. Heavy wooden doors at the side of the church were blown in. Bishopsgate churchyard was

THE CLEAN-UP

flecked with triangles of glass. The 13th century St Ethelburga's, the smallest church in the city, is a wreck. A Barclays Bank cash-point machine had been shaken loose by the explosion. At the Hogg Robinson travel agency, brochures showing women in bikinis somersaulted in the wind. The contents of sandwich bars and photo shops lined the pavement like an off-beat boot sale. Every window on one side of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank lay on the



Balcombe: pledge needed on paying

road below. A slab of metal, believed to have come from the lorry carrying the bomb, was embedded in a news kiosk.

Workmen crawled over the glass canopy of Liverpool Street station, dislodging shards that had resisted the blast. At the nearby Great Eastern hotel, 280 guests who had been moved to safety on Saturday returned to collect their suitcases. The hotel had 300 fewer windows than when they last saw it. Ceilings had come down and internal doors were blasted off their hinges.

The cordon surrounding this rubble was lowered only occasionally, to allow in possess of journalists and photographers who were led on police bus tours of the debris, for workers making repairs, for keyholders of office blocks assessing damage to their workplace, but not for the sightseers who had either come to gawp or who had happened upon the chaos while on a sightseeing stroll. A fragile Japanese tourist in her sixties made the mistake of enquiring what was going on from one of the cruder photographers penned behind

barricades near the Bank of England, whose temper had been frayed by his inability to get on one of the police bus tours and whose spirit had been drenched by the rain.

"A bomb," he snapped, somehow flicking his eyes both skywards in despair and sideways at his colleagues. "Boom, boom! Went off yesterday," and he walked off. The fringes of the cordon simmered with activity. Bargaining continued in Petticoat Lane market. A loss assessor rammed leather under car windscreen wipers, offering to "relieve the anguish and headaches of making an insurance claim. Call the Professionals. Triumph Assessors. No loss too small."

Already on the scene, Nicholas Balcombe, of the Balcombe Group of loss assessors, had vaulted himself into politics for a day and decided that "the government needs to come out with a clear statement that it will pay for all terrorist acts. And if it doesn't, the terrorists will win. I would guess we are talking about damage in excess of £1 billion."

Also in the press pen, rival Robert Rose of Harris Assessors predicted that City dealing rooms could be running today "as long as dealers have telephones and access to the necessary technology. With the spare capacity in the City, it is possible to set up temporary offices elsewhere. You can't make London into an armed camp. But security in office buildings will probably be increased."

St Francis McWilliams, the Lord Mayor of London, promised business as usual for most today. Workers anxious to know if their offices are open, or whether they should report elsewhere, can call Guildhall for information. Seeing a bedraggled throng in a pen near the Bank of England, a red Salvation Army van stopped to distribute past-their-sell-by-date Marks & Spencer prawn sandwiches to the press corps, like feeding time for monkeys at a zoo.

Slightly refreshed, television reporters straightened their ties or the crease in their blouses, and repeated to the camera lens what they had been saying on the hour, every hour, since dawn: "There are scenes of devastation here. Steve Martin/Michael ... weeks before the City returned to normal ... all cordoned off ... just over a year since the Baltic Exchange ... more than £1 billion worth of damage, say loss assessors ... back to you in the studio."

Bart's tends the bloodied survivors

By JAMIE DEITMER AND PETER VICTOR

THE victims of the IRA's Bishopsgate bomb made their way into St Bartholomew's hospital with shirts torn and trousers and skirts splattered with blood. Their hands trembled as though they were still experiencing the explosion's massive aftershocks.

Within minutes of Saturday's bomb, Bart's, a hospital not unfamiliar with coping with disaster, swung into action. Nurses in red accident and emergency aprons and doctors wearing blue overalls quickly assessed who among the wounded needed immediate attention. Most of the extra staff who arrived in the hospital's cramped casualty department had not been called in — they had rushed there after hearing about the bomb on news bulletins.

Even BT engineers were on the scene filling public telephones in casualty with money, allowing the injured to contact their families. Anthony Rotherham, 34,

an unemployed father of two, was the first to brave the assembled journalists, explaining in a subdued voice what had happened in Moorgate station as the bomb exploded.

"I was in the second carriage from the front, I think, when all of a sudden there was a big bang and the train rocked. I banged my head on the window. There was smoke

coming through the tunnel. There were people trying to get out and screaming. There was a lot of panic."

THE INJURED

As morning turned into afternoon, the medical staff started to relax. Twenty-six casualties were taken to Bart's, none of them with life-threatening injuries, and ten were taken to the Royal London Hospital at Whitechapel. Police had warned the hospi-

itals that there may have been some people buried in rubble, but as time went by this seemed a remote possibility. People in the City also began to relax, behaving as though it were just another fire drill. Few were aware of the extent of the devastation. The talk was of fewer than 30 injured. At that stage no-one knew that a man had been killed.

In Moorgate, people stood behind the police tape and speculated at the scale of the damage. Almost halfheartedly, officers turned back City workers who wanted to retrieve an overcoat or some other personal item.

Close to the epicentre of the blast, there were piles of shattered glass. Alarm bells and sirens triggered by the explosion waited unattended. Occasionally, great jagged panes of glass crashed to the ground.

In Throgmorton Street and Throgmorton Avenue, office workers and security men

lounge in the doorways of buildings or peered through shattered windows. Those in groups chatted about football and journalists joked about never working the early Sunday shift again.

On the first floor of the Stock Exchange, security men pushed out a window, heaving at it with poles and lengths of timber. From their manner they might as well have been shifting garden rubbish.

In Old Broad Street and down through Moorgate, the damage from the blast was patchy, with some buildings unscathed and other adjacent ones with shattered windows.

Several hours after the explosion, a policeman led a stream of workers out of the Nat West Tower. They did not appear to be particularly shaken by their ordeal. "We're from the Nat West Building," one shouted. A little further on he shouted his name, but it was lost in the crunching of shoes on the carpet of glass.

Churches face insurance shortfall

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CHURCH leaders were yesterday counting the cost of bomb damage to up to eight churches in the City as it emerged that a large proportion may not be recovered through insurance.

St Ethelburga Bishopsgate, a small medieval church that survived the Great Fire and the Blitz and suffered minor damage in last year's explosion, caught the full force of the blast and was left with just one back wall standing. St Botolph without Bishopsgate, fully repaired after minor damage last year, was also badly hit.

Church leaders disclosed last night that the policy covering the 39 grade-one listed churches in the City had been altered after last year's bomb, which caused £2 million damage to church property. The damage this time is thought to be much worse.

Under the new policy, effective from the beginning of this month, churches were insured for a maximum of £100,000 against buildings and a further £100,000 against contents.

The diocese could not afford the high premium against terrorist attack, a further £175,000 on top of the £205,000 annual premium, introduced on April 1 in response to last year's blast.

Clergy were told to take out individual church insurance if they thought it was needed. None of them is thought to have done so, however,

because the problem was still under discussion. Jim Scott, of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, estimated that the new cover would barely pay architects' and surveyors' fees. He described the bomb as a "tremendous tragedy" for the City's churches.

The Ven George Cassidy, Archdeacon of London, said: "Part of our national heritage has been destroyed, and may be irretrievable."

Of the six churches damaged last year, three had been fully repaired. Most of these have been damaged again and at least two more, St Michael Cornhill and All Hallows London Wall, which is

THE DAMAGE

the headquarters of the Council for the Care of Churches, have been damaged.

Conservationists will mourn the loss of St Ethelburga, which was due to be converted into a chapel of ease for workers to pray and meditate in during lunch breaks. Last night it was unclear whether the church could be rebuilt.

St Helen Bishopsgate, the largest medieval church to survive the Great Fire, was badly damaged last year and the east windows were destroyed. It is understood to have been further damaged, with the loss of most of the valuable stained-glass west and north windows, which survived last year.

Police praise cab drivers for ignoring hijackers' orders

By TIM JONES

THE drivers of two minicabs hijacked by the IRA in north London on Saturday night were praised by police yesterday for their courage in ignoring orders to drive their bomb-laden cars to Downing Street and New Scotland Yard.

Both men, who had been threatened with handguns, abandoned their cars in relatively quiet streets and raised the alarm. The areas around the cars were evacuated before the bombs exploded, shortly before midnight. Police believe that the hijackings were co-ordinated by the IRA to enforce the impact of the bombing in the City hours earlier in the day.

Ben Isaac, co-director of the cab company Alan's Cars, said yesterday: "Both drivers are in deep shock and are just trying to cope with what has happened to them. I haven't a clue why they picked on our drivers. I think it is probably just our bad luck."

He said that one of the

THE HEROES

drivers, aged 43, was married with three children. "He called us today and was clearly still in shock. He said he loved the job but could not work because he no longer has a car."

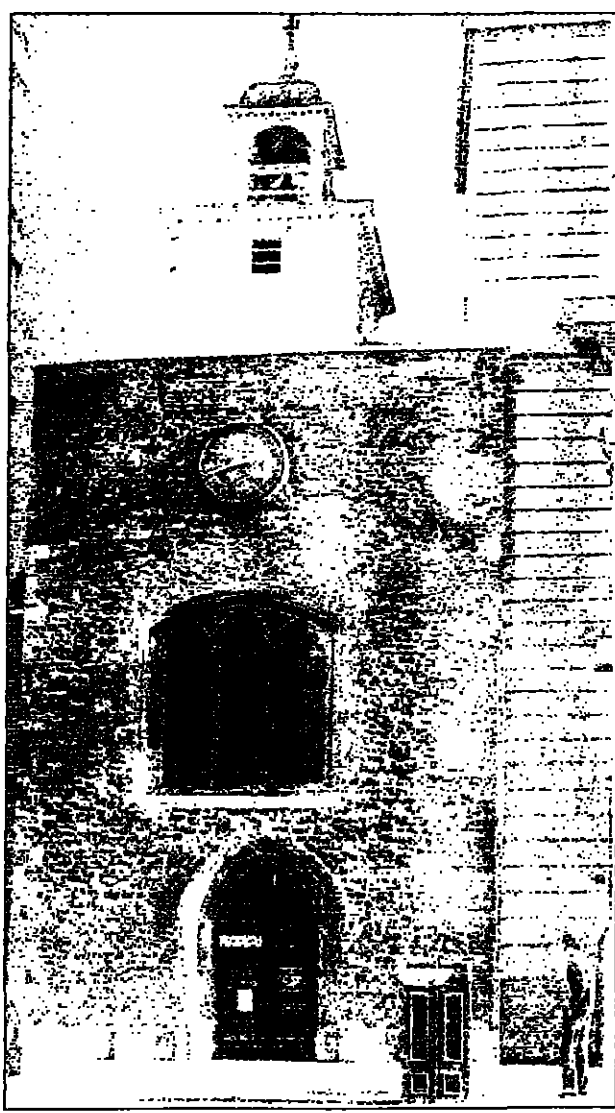
Both cabs had been hired from Alan's Cars, in north London, between 10.30pm and 11pm by men with Irish accents. In the first incident, a man hired a car from the office and was met outside by an accomplice. Once inside the car, they threatened the driver with a small handgun and told him that they had primed a remote-controlled bomb.

They got out after telling him that he would be followed on the four-mile drive to Downing Street to make sure that he complied with their orders. After travelling half the distance, the driver left his car in Judd Street, near King's Cross, and called police who evacuated the area before the bomb exploded

at 11.52, destroying the car.

In the second incident, a man who walked into the same office was joined by an accomplice near by. They told the driver that they were armed and had primed a bomb, and ordered him to park outside Scotland Yard. After they got out, he shouted to a bus driver to alert the police and an area of Seven Sisters Road in Finsbury Park was evacuated before the bomb exploded at 11.51, destroying the car.

Police issued descriptions of the four hijackers. Suspect 1 is white, about 24, 5ft 7in tall, with a slim, athletic build and short fair hair. He was wearing jeans and trainers. Suspect 2 is white, about 45, 5ft 10in, and was wearing a black cap, overcoat and black trousers. Suspect 3 is white, 20-25, 5ft 7in, clean-shaven and was wearing a black baseball cap, dark glasses, dark jacket and jeans. Suspect 4 is white, 20-25, 5ft 10in, and was wearing a black baseball cap.



Historic loss: St Ethelburga church before the blast

it's up to you

It's up to all of us. Whether an African recovery lives or dies depends on how we all respond. And when. Years of war, poverty and famine have undermined the continent and brought it to the brink of tragedy. Today, it is the only part of the world where the average person has less money and less to eat than twenty years ago.

But there are signs of hope. There are opportunities to be taken. The end of long-running wars, the gradual spread of democratic freedoms and some brave economic reforms by African governments all promise a better, fairer future. A future that can happen if – and only if – Africa is enabled to take the road to recovery.

The truth is, Africa's future is only partly in its own hands. Falling prices for African exports, too little aid and mushrooming debt have all dealt the continent a triple blow: people are being hit while they're down.

Alone, they will not make a comeback. Oxfam is continuing to support the efforts of people in many parts of the continent. But no matter how hard Africans work to help themselves, if Africa's unpayable debt is not written off by the West, and levels of aid continue to be woefully insufficient, the prospects for any recovery are bleak. Which is why Oxfam has launched a new campaign calling for aid to Africa to be increased and for its debt to be cut. And soon.

Western governments are already helping Russia with massive aid grants. Clearly, it's not so much the money to help Africa they're missing, but the will. Whether they find that will, and enable over 300 million people in Africa to escape from poverty, depends on you showing you care.

You can do that today by joining Oxfam's campaign. You can also make a donation to our work in Africa. Above all, you can make a difference. Please do. Make or break – it's up to you.

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حکومت الامم المتحدة

Portillo demands early savings as pressure grows on public spending



Portillo: the omens already look bad

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SEVERE pressures on public spending have prompted Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, to ask cabinet ministers for immediate results from the rolling four-year review of their departments' expenditure.

The Treasury is planning an early raid on the budgets of departments singled out for special scrutiny this year. Ministers are being told that economies so far identified will be needed to help the government to hit its spending targets for next year and the following two years. As

the government strains to reduce its growing budget deficit to counter fears that economic recovery will be accompanied by a return to inflation, it has emerged that the long-term review has been widened to include the housing benefit budget. Michael Howard, whose environment department has responsibilities for paying the benefit, will have his budgets examined, along with Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, John Patten at education, Virginia Bottomley in health and Kenneth Clarke at the Home Office.

Mr Portillo has called for interim reports from the main spending

departments by June. He has begun preparatory discussions with ministers about this year's spending round and is telling them that the omens already look bad.

The decision to ask for early savings comes as ministers acknowledge the huge difficulties in meeting the spending limits set last autumn for 1994-5 and 1995-6. These years and the following year will be the subject of the annual spending survey that has already begun in Whitehall in readiness for the government's first "unified" budget combining taxation and spending decisions in November. The figures are officially "ceilings"

that cannot be breached. Treasury ministers say that they will not be easy to achieve.

Despite the apparent ferocity of last year's spending review discussions, the limits set for the next two years are far tougher than for the current spending year. This year's ceiling of £243.8 billion implied real growth in spending of 2.3 per cent in 1993-4. The growth figures for 1994-5 and the following year are only 0.7 per cent and 1 per cent respectively. One minister said: "For all the hype, last year's review was a piece of cake compared with what we've got in front of us."

The achievement of this year's limit was helped by the imposition of the 1.5 per cent ceiling on public sector pay. As *The Times* disclosed last month, ministers have accepted they that would not be able to apply such a rigid norm for the second year in succession.

Mr Portillo's position will be eased if the unexpected fall in unemployment continues and the number of benefit claimants reduces, but the demands on the £80 billion social security budget are immense. Social security ministers gathered for a two-day "brainstorming" session over the weekend at which radical ideas for reforming the welfare state were

discussed. These include the idea of the better-off being forced to take out private insurance against unemployment and providing their own pensions.

Mr Portillo spoke yesterday of the recovery being "modest" at the beginning and said that rates of growth would not be as fast as in the 1980s. He voiced growing ministerial optimism that there will be further falls in unemployment and confidence that the government's target of inflation between 1 and 4 per cent would not be breached. But he said that if wage increases took off the prospects for unemployment would worsen.

AA tells motorists to pay fines rather than seek justice

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

DRIVERS charged with minor motoring offences have been warned by the Automobile Association not to bother protesting their innocence in court. The AA says today that it may be more sensible to pay fixed penalty fines of £40 for offences such as speeding or parking, rather than to go to court and risk fines of hundreds of pounds.

The new system of unit fines allows magistrates to link punishment to the ability to pay. But the AA says it has caused widespread confusion and unfairly penalises some drivers. A motorist can be offered a fixed penalty of £20-£40 without a court hearing for some lesser offences. In court, however, the offence becomes liable to the unit fine system.

One driver was offered a fixed penalty fine of £40 and a three-point endorsement on his licence for speeding. In court, the punishment became a £600 fine and a six-point endorsement. An appeal supported by the AA led to the endorsement being reduced to four points, but the fine was not cut. Another driver was fined £400 for crossing diagonal white lines at a motorway junction.

Fines of such severity have led to the AA's advice to its 7.6 million members. It says motorists who believe they have been wrongly charged may decide it is simply easier

■ The motoring organisation says drivers should accept fixed penalties rather than risk means-tested court decisions

to pay up than try to prove their innocence and risk failure. The AA says the chances of escaping huge fines are remote.

There were more than 5.6 million fixed penalty tickets issued in 1991. Twenty per cent went to court with fines averaging 1.5 times the fixed penalty, at £60 instead of £40 a fine. Only 8.4 per cent of fixed penalty notices were withdrawn by police. Most of the 33,400 motorists who contested cases, lost, according to the AA study; 92 per cent of cases for speeding were lost, with average fines of £85.

Under the new unit system, the average speeding fine has jumped to £400, which means motorists should "think twice" before deciding to battle out cases in court, according to the AA's legal department.

One of the greatest areas of confusion has been among motorists who do not want to disclose their personal finances to the court. They become liable to a maximum fine of £100 per unit levied on the offence, not a £100 maximum fine as many believe, says the AA.

Peter Newman, head of the legal department, said: "It is unjust that choosing to protest your innocence in court may

land you with a unit fine hugely out of proportion to the original fixed penalty."

"Consistency before the law is a basic principle of the British justice system, but the lack of flexibility with which courts can handle this difference between fixed penalties and unit fines makes a mockery of it. As part of its general review of the unit fines system, the government must allow magistrates' courts to impose unit fines much closer to fixed penalty levels where appropriate," Mr Newman said.

Drivers can incur fixed penalties, which vary according to the seriousness of the offence, at almost every stage of everyday driving. Parking on a red route in London is an endorsable offence with a fine of £40, while other parking offences cost £30 in the capital.

The AA's also advises motorists to carry a driving licence at all times. Failure to produce a licence only increases the severity of the court fine, however valid the excuse.

Mr Newman said: "Drivers whose licences are lost or with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency are particularly vulnerable as the law does not recognise such excuses for not producing a licence within the fixed penalty period."



Roar deal: Lance Sergeant Barber, of the 2nd battalion, the Coldstream Guards, drilling Scouts in the fine art of marching at Combermere Barracks in Windsor, headquarters of the Household Cavalry. About 900 Scouts who were put through their paces at the barracks later put their new-found skills to the test when they went on parade before the Duke of Kent in the quadrangle at Windsor Castle

Lonrho meets rival bidders to fix Observer value

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE fight for Britain's oldest Sunday newspaper, the *Observer*, enters a critical phase this week as Lonrho, its owner, meets rival bidders to "determine what the paper would be worth in the market place".

A senior source at Lonrho

said yesterday that it has agreed to meet representatives of Newspaper Publishing, owner of *The Independent on Sunday* and *The Independent*, which has offered £20 million plus a stake in the company for control of the *Observer*, and executives of *The Guardian* and Manchester Evening News, parent

company of *The Guardian*, which is believed to have offered £15 million for the 202-year-old paper.

The meetings follow speculation at the weekend that Lonrho is seeking to sell the *Observer*, estimated to lose £10 million a year. Although Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's chairman, has not indicated

that it is for sale, the bidders have put the paper into play. The Lonrho source said: "Any bid would have to be put to the full Lonrho board ... and it is still not certain whether influential board members will be in London on the same days this week."

MPs of all parties yesterday called for any sale to the

Independent group to be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Labour MPs, in particular, fear that the *Observer* would effectively be closed under such a sale. David Harris, Tory MP for St Ives and a former journalist, said he wanted the *Observer* to stay independent, or otherwise go to *The Guardian*.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teachers' leader appeals for truce

The leader of Britain's secondary head teachers appealed for compromise yesterday in the dispute over school testing and offered to act as an honest broker between teachers and the government (John O'Leary writes).

Louise Kidd, president of the Secondary Heads Association, criticised ministers for bringing parents into the dispute. She told the association's annual conference in Southport, Merseyside, that pupils could not be expected to take seriously tests that were now accepted as flawed.

John Patten, the education secretary, repeated in a television interview that the tests would go ahead and claimed growing support from teachers opposed to the boycott of tests. He refused to rule out early legislation to impose a legal obligation on teachers to test and assess their pupils.

Staff contract challenge

A test case challenging employers' right to give staff personal contracts that remove the right to belong to a trade union opens in the Court of Appeal today. Three dockworkers from Southampton who refused personal contracts are bringing the action against Associated British Ports. Colleagues who accepted the contracts in 1991 earned £20 to £30 more but gave up their right to belong to a union. In a similar action, the National Union of Journalists is backing an appeal against the *Daily Mail* today.

Stunt bike makes £2,800

A Yamaha motorbike used by stunt rider Eddie Kidd (right) on record-breaking jumps sold for £2,875 in a Sotheby's auction at the International Classic Bike Show in Stafford yesterday. It was bought by Cars of the Stars Museum in Keswick, Cumbria, and will be shown with James Bond's rocket-fueled machine from *Thunderball* and the futuristic bike from *Back to the Future II*.



Poll backs euthanasia

Support for voluntary euthanasia for the incurably ill is at a record level, it was claimed yesterday. Exit, the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, said that 79 per cent of people questioned in a recent poll agreed that adults suffering from incurable illness should receive "medical help to a peaceful death". More than 2,000 adults were questioned in the NOP survey.

Doubt on gas break-up

The Gas Consumers' Council today urges caution over the proposed break-up of British Gas into regional units because it could see "no evidence" of advantage to customers. The council said that it could only support a break-up, as favoured by Ofgas, the industry watchdog, if it was better for consumers. The council called for better meter reading and a system of appointments.

Lib Dems fail to dent Tory lead in Newbury

By SHEILA GUINN

NEWBURY is a by-election that the Liberal Democrats need to win. As the campaign goes into its last full week, the odds surprisingly point to the Conservatives holding on to the seat.

David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat candidate, may yet storm through to win the seat on May 6. He has impressive credentials and a proven local record. But he has so far failed to supply the impetus for the 9.3 per cent swing he needs to win.

His lacklustre backing for the £65 million Newbury bypass, approved by the government last month, is irritating some voters. As a local councillor he is blamed for high car-parking charges which were set to deter drivers.

With the help of Paddy Ashdown, Mr Rendel sought to promote VAT on domestic fuel as a key campaign issue. But the Conservative camp unearthed a Liberal Democrat consultation document *Costing the Earth*, which proposed an end to zero-rating of VAT on fuel as part of the party's anti-pollution strategy.

Julian Davidson, the Conservative candidate, has three big advantages: the drip-drip of good economic news; apathy, which could lead to many Tories staying at home rather than turning out for Mr Rendel; and Gerry Malone, his formidable "minder".

The element of uncertainty will be the support for the 17 other candidates, who could provide "dustbins" for protest votes and determine whether the government's majority is 19 or 21 on May 7.

□ 1992 general election: J. Chaplin (C) 37,135; D. Rendel (Lib Dem) 24,778; R. Hall (L) 3,962; J. Wallis (Green) 539. Con majority 12,357.

□ The anti-Maastricht campaigners Lord Tebbit and Peter Shore will speak at a public meeting tonight at Newbury racecourse in favour of a referendum on the Maastricht treaty. *The Times* is holding a postal canvass on the treaty in the constituency.

Phone-in brings hundreds of jobs

By RAY CLANCY

GRASS-ROOTS evidence to support John Major's claim that the recession is ending is emerging in towns where many businesses collapsed and unemployment soared.

In the Bath area, hundreds of people have found work this month through a project involving a radio phone-in.

Hundreds of jobs have been provided through a scheme called Million Pounds of Work for Avon, run by Avon Training and Enterprise Council, the Employment Service and the local radio station GWR-FM. It was launched at the end of March when employers were asked to pledge jobs or training places, and nearly 900,000 worth of jobs has been raised already.

Simon Cooper, a director of GWR-FM, said: "It shows that people respond to calls for jobs and training places just as they would for charity telethons." Jobs have been found for sales assistants, engineers, hairdressers, lawyers and drivers.

Sue Boyd, of the Confederation of British Industry office in Bristol, said: "There is now more optimism and people working together for the first time. This is encouraging, but we are still in for a long struggle. We have to keep our heads down and work hard."

Another sign of confidence is the crowds in the once-deserted Seven Dials shopping centre in Bath. The council filled vacant shops with exhibitions of photographs and pottery to prevent them becoming rundown.

□ *The Times*, in association with GWR-FM, is holding an "Any Questions?" evening with a panel of *Times* experts at The Watershed Media Centre, Bristol, at 7.30pm on Wednesday. Tickets are available from the centre at 1 Canons Road, Bristol BS1 5TX, at a cost of £2.50 (£1.50 concessions). Credit card holders can call the centre direct on 0272 253845.

Bristol City draw, page 24
Bath win league, page 26
HTV studio sale, page 37

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THE TIMES
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GPs oppose NHS

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HOSPICE

Snack makers use additives children should not eat

By TONY DAWE

MANY of Britain's favourite snacks, on which we spend £1.6 billion a year, contain unsavoury additives and high levels of fat and salt, the Food Commission reports today.

It says that the additives in snacks include colours, artificial sweeteners and antioxidants that are banned in foods made specifically for babies and small children, yet the products are designed to appeal to the young.

In a survey published in *The Food Magazine*, the snacks containing the most worrying additives are identified as Smith's Quavers, with annual sales of nearly £35 million, and KP Skips, which have sales of £25 million.

The survey also criticises the use of the words "lightly salted" to describe some brands of crisps, and says that Marks & Spencer's Lightly Salted Crinkle Crisps contain more salt than all but one of the products sampled.

Sue Dibb, co-director of the Food Commission, an independent watchdog, and author of the report, said: "We want to see much tougher laws to ensure that misleading claims are not made for food. Responsible manufacturers should also stop using suspect additives in foods that are bound to be consumed by young children."

The snack-makers responded by saying that all their ingredients were officially approved. Marks & Spencer accepted that the term "lightly salted", introduced five years ago, was outdated: "We will amend this description as soon as we can."

The Food Commission says that the findings published today are particularly disturbing because of the growth in

snack consumption. Britain has become "a nation of monster munchers" with each man, woman and child eating the equivalent of 150 packets of crisps a year. Many children take such snacks to school in packed lunches.

The survey found that Smith's Quavers and Squares each contained two antioxidants, products used to prevent oils and fats from becoming rancid, that have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals and to provoke intolerant reactions in children. Quavers also contain annatto, a colouring that can cause allergic reactions.

Annatto and sunset yellow, a colour thought to cause hypersensitivity, were found in KP Skips, which also contained added sugar and saccharin, which is not recommended for children under three.

Miss Dibb said: "There must be an anomaly in a law which says that foods for babies and young children cannot contain these additives but permits them in snacks that are readily available to young children."

The Food Commission adds: "Crisp manufacturers have made much of the fact that there is more vitamin C in a bag of crisps than in an apple, on average eight grams compared with six. What they don't say is that there is also over a hundred times more fat and sodium in a bag of crisps compared with an apple and that apples, unlike oranges, are not high in vitamin C anyway."

KP Foods said: "Skips contain nothing that is not fully approved and permitted by EC legislation. They are perfectly safe."

Toy trains steam to a revival

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY

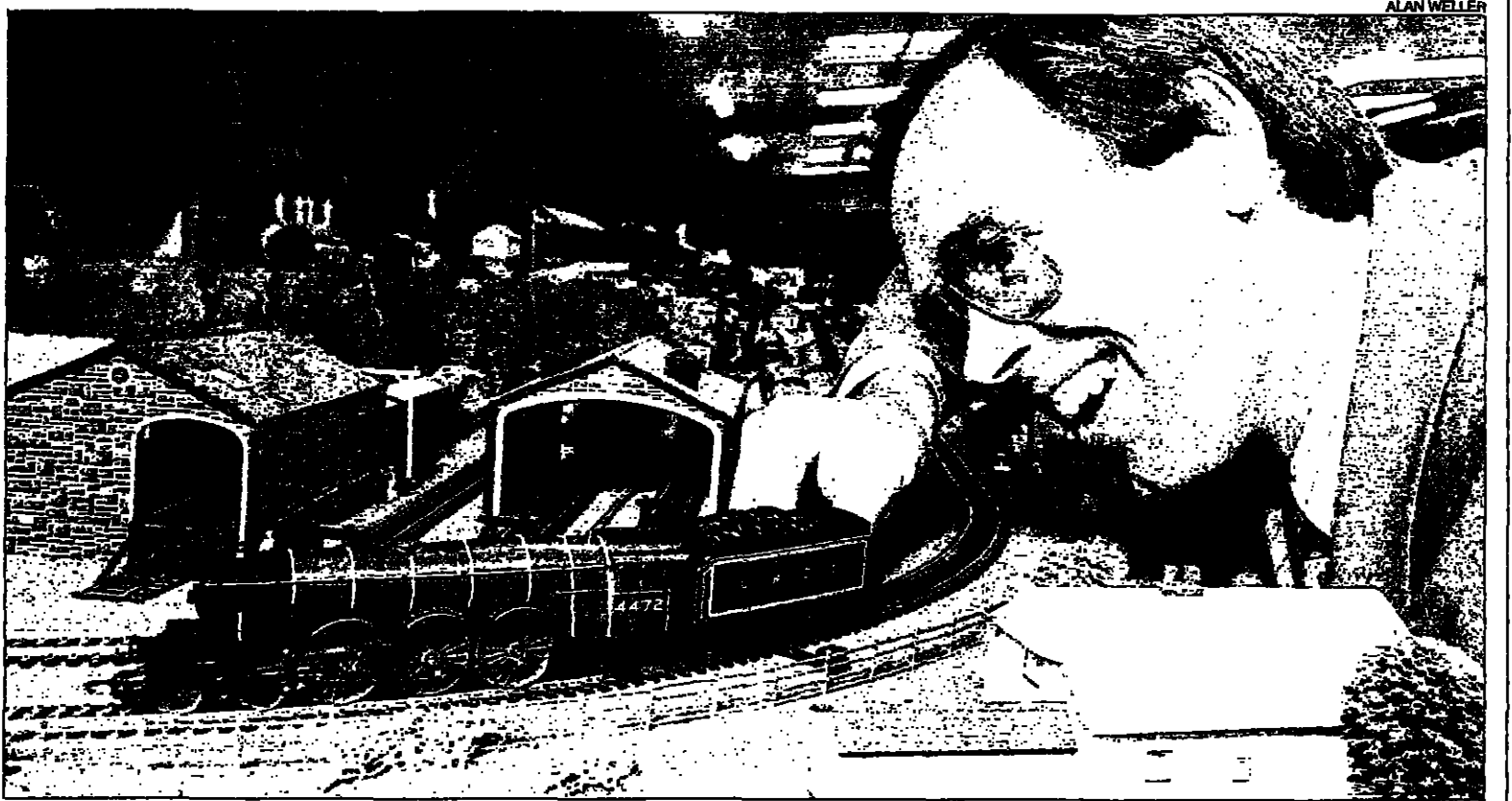
ONE area of the rail network is thriving without controversy, despite the plans to sell-off British Rail: investment in toy trains and model railways is booming.

Children are being lured away from video games by miniature engines, carriages and lines, just as they were 40 years ago when steam was in its heyday.

Serious railway modellers, adults who spend thousands of pounds on their hobby, have never wavered in their obsession, but children's interest went into steep decline a decade ago, after the launch of computer games. Several manufacturers went out of business or incurred large losses.

Now children's involvement has been revived, partly, the manufacturers say, by the popularity of the television programme *Thomas the Tank Engine*, and partly by the spread of railway preservation societies, thought to number about 250, and all with highly visible steam engines.

Hornby, the biggest manu-



Back on track: Simon Kohler, Hornby's marketing manager, models its first new lines for a decade, including the *Flying Scotsman*

facturer, say it is selling 30 per cent more sets now than in the 1960s. The company is showing its faith in the market by launching its first entirely new toy train set for a

decade, packaged inside a carrying case, which turns into a station and a tunnel when opened. For older enthusiasts, the firm is also producing three new models of

the *Flying Scotsman*, to mark the 70th anniversary of Britain's most famous locomotive. "In the early eighties we had to diversify into dolls and electronic toys, and we didn't

sell many trains," Simon Kohler, Hornby's marketing manager, said. "But now the interest is very strong." Bachmann, another manufacturer of model locos and

rolling stock, has just spent nearly £300,000 extending its factory in Leicestershire. "The market is expanding all the time," Graham Hubbard, the managing director, said.

Ministers 'bowing to drug companies'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government was accused last night of giving in to pressure from drug companies after it was alleged that it is about to block legislation designed to give the public rights to information about the safety of medicines.

A backbencher's bill to give people a right to know about the safety and effectiveness of medicines and the disclosure of test results on new medicines, which has wide support across the parties, is expected to be killed by the government when it comes before the Commons on Friday.

The government was accused yesterday of backtracking on its commitment to open government. Giles Radice, Labour MP for Durham North and the bill's sponsor, charged ministers with "double-dealing and collusion". He accused them of shifting their previous backing for the principle of the bill to soften opposition in the pharmaceutical industry to its separate plans to widen the list of drugs that can be prescribed on the national health service.

He said the government, having previously promised to give the bill "a fair wind", was reneging on its commitment to open government.

People who claim their lives

have been ruined after addiction to prescribed tranquillisers are to take part in a Commons lobby on Thursday designed to win backing for the measure. But all the latest indications from the government suggest that it will be blocked.

At present, information submitted to the human and veterinary licensing authorities by manufacturers is kept secret because of a prohibition on disclosure of information in the 1968 Medicines Act. Mr Radice's bill narrows the restriction to cover only genuine trade secrets.

It would also give the public a right to a summary about the information on a drug's safety, quality and effectiveness, and to summaries of adverse drug reaction reports. Such information is already available on British medicines sold in the United States.

Mr Radice said he had met the industry's concerns by agreeing to exempt from public access commercially sensitive information about manufacturing processes.

The government appears to have pulled back from its position on the bill's second reading when it made plain that it did not oppose the principle of the legislation.

GPs oppose NHS list

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST eight out of 10 family doctors oppose government plans to restrict the range of drugs available to NHS patients, according to a new poll.

The number has increased by 15 per cent since February

as opposition to the proposals has hardened, according to the survey carried out by Milpro for the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. Doctors fear that the ban, an extension of the "limited list" of NHS drugs introduced a decade ago, will lead to a deterioration in care.

The government says that restricting the range will help to curb the rising NHS drugs bill, currently £3 billion a year. It says there are 1,776 preparations for treatment of skin conditions alone, which could be substantially cut without harming patients.

Doctors are most alarmed at plans to limit the range of contraceptive pills, more than 35 brands of which are currently available. GPs write seven million prescriptions for the pills each year, at a cost of £4 million, and it is likely that the more expensive brands will be excluded.

Endorsement of alternative medicine by the royal family has helped to fuel a boom in herbal and other remedies, according to the market research group Mintel.

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Seven-year shadow of Chernobyl still darkens sheep farms

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

THE Chernobyl explosion, which occurred seven years ago today, still casts a shadow of pollution across some of Britain's most beautiful landscapes.

More than 482,000 sheep on 631 farms scattered over the uplands of Cumbria, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland cannot be moved unless they are checked for radiation or marked with an indelible dye showing their tainted origin.

On May 2, 1986, radioactive isotopes of caesium rained down after thunderstorms broke up the cloud of contamination that had gathered over Britain after a six-day, 2,400-mile journey across Western Europe from the Ukraine.

Farmers were told the pollution would pass in a few weeks, or at worst months. For most this proved so, but for some in the hills, coping with the lingering effects of the fall-

A lingering disaster predicted to last a few months means laborious radioactive tests, and often lost money, for farmers

out has become as much a part of their lives as the seasonal rituals of lambing, dipping and shearing.

Geraint Roberts keeps 900 Welsh mountain and Scottish black-faced ewes on 370 wild and windswept acres crisscrossed with dry-stone walls between 600 ft and 1,000 ft above Tretrw, Gwynedd, on the edge of Snowdonia. Much of the region is still restricted.

Twenty-six of Mr Roberts's ewes gave birth a week ago to twin lambs. He wanted to move them temporarily to better grass on lowland pasture he rents on Anglesey. To do this he had to paint the heads of the sheep with a red dye and call out two officials from a Chernobyl "incident room" run by the Welsh Office agriculture department at Caernarfon. Sheep from re-

stricted areas can be sold for slaughter only after their radioactivity has been checked. Those above a cautious "action level" of 1,000 becquerels (a unit of radioactive decay) per kilogram of meat are marked as failures and must be moved to lower, uncontaminated land or sold to other farmers who own such pasture.

"None of us ever imagined the effects of the fall-out would last so long," Mr Roberts said. "We have had to learn to live with it. It can be a real nuisance when you want to take lambs to market. Prices go up and down from day to day. By the time you have had your animals checked, which can take several days, the price may have fallen again."

Sheep that fail the Geiger counter test will usually lose

their high radioactive levels after a few weeks of grazing on lower pastures. Cattle are not affected by the fall-out because they graze at lower altitudes and, unlike sheep, do not crop the grass down to the roots.

Wales, which has more sheep than any other part of Britain, is worst hit, with 248,000 sheep on 353 farms still restricted. It is followed by Cumbria (110,500 sheep on

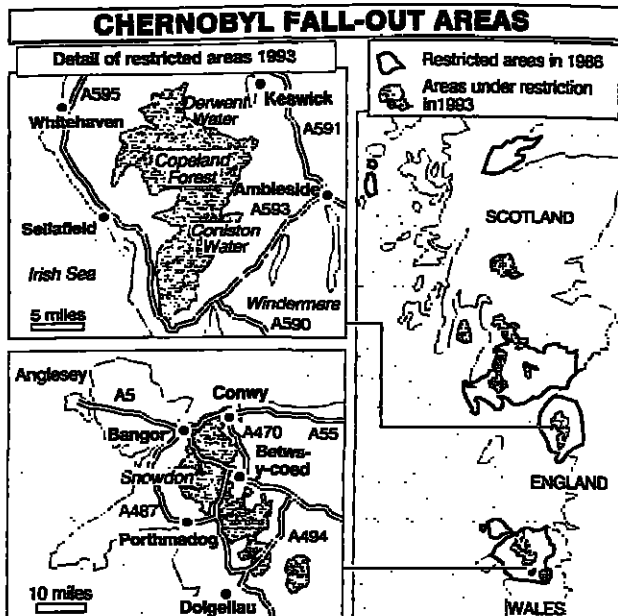
126 farms), Scotland (106,000 sheep on 54 farms), and Northern Ireland (17,750 sheep on 98 farms). Immediately after the accident 8,914 farms and 4.2 million sheep were affected throughout Britain, but more than 90 per cent were taken off the restricted list within a few months. Most rain, and hence most contamination, fell on the hills and in the acidic,

peaty uplands, scientists have discovered, radioactive caesium remains chemically mobile and is absorbed by each new growth of grass.

In Cumbria there is a suspicion that up to half the radioactivity there may be from a fire in 1957 at the Sellafield nuclear site, then Windscale, and to weapons testing before the atmospheric test ban in the mid-1960s.



How radioactive is my valley? Geraint Roberts's sheep undergoing Geiger counter test



Chess chiefs reinstate Short aide

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE British Chess Federation has reversed a decision to suspend Adam Black, an aide to Nigel Short, in the wake of the *Times* announcement last week that the world chess championship between Short and Garry Kasparov has been secured for London.

Mr Black, who assisted Short in breaking away from Fide, the world chess federation, to play for the world title under the auspices of a new professional chess body, was suspended last month from his role as publicity director for the British federation.

At a lengthy meeting on Saturday in London, the suspension was overturned overwhelmingly by a vote of the federation's general council. There was also criticism of earlier statements censuring Short.

Mr Black said his actions had been "in the best interest of British chess. The constitution of the British Chess Federation says nothing about allegiance to Fide; it is solely concerned with promoting chess in this country, and that is what I have consistently done."

Short said yesterday: "I am very happy to see Adam reinstated. The result of the new vote is a victory for the forces of progress."

The federation's international director, Simon Brown, is to approach Fide to seek approval for involvement by the British Chess Federation in what promises to be the biggest chess spectacle in the United Kingdom.

Crime ban for a day

Police in Cheshire have declared next Wednesday a crime-free day. Backroom work will be cut to a minimum as the force swamps the county with police officers, special constables and cadets, trebling the usual 400 officers on the beat.

Cheshire is the safest county in England in terms of crimes per thousand people, but decided to act after a 23 per cent increase in crime last year. The force will be releasing crime statistics every three hours during the day to assess the campaign's impact.

Ten people were charged with criminal damage and with being equipped to commit criminal damage yesterday after the Conservative headquarters in Wales was attacked. There was an earlier demonstration at the Welsh Office against education policy.

Man raped

A man has been ambushed and raped at knifepoint in Leeds. The wanted man is white, aged about 25, 6ft tall, slim, clean shaven, with short, dark hair. He was wearing a dark top and dark trousers or jeans.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly Premium Bond draw: £100,000, bond 32TL 226630, winner from Essex (value of holding, £4,056); £50,000, 27WK 601467, London borough of Southwark (£4,173); £25,000, 4FN 871702, Sheffield (£463).

CHAMPIONSHIP CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
TIMES CHESS
CORRESPONDENT

World Champion Garry Kasparov has always claimed that the brilliant tactician Alexander Alekhine is his chess hero.

In today's game we see Kasparov in action, in the style of his hero, from his most recent tournament in Linares, where he scored an amazing 10 points out of a possible 13 against a world class field.

White: Ljubomir Ljubojevic
Black: Garry Kasparov
Linares, Spain,
February 1993

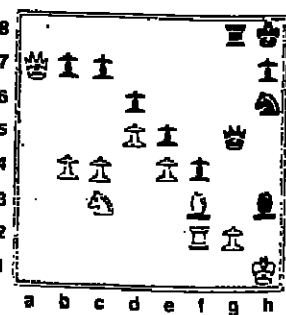
King's Indian Defence

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|----|------|------|
| 1 | d4 | Nf6 |
| 2 | c4 | g6 |
| 3 | Nc3 | Bg7 |
| 4 | e4 | 0-0 |
| 5 | Be2 | 0-0 |
| 6 | Nf3 | e5 |
| 7 | 0-0 | Nc6 |
| 8 | d5 | Nc7 |
| 9 | Nd2 | a5 |
| 10 | Rb1 | Nd7 |
| 11 | a3 | f5 |
| 12 | b4 | Kf8 |
| 13 | Q3 | f4 |
| 14 | Nb3 | axb4 |
| 15 | axb4 | g5 |
| 16 | Bd2 | Ng6 |
| 17 | Ra1 | Rg6 |
| 18 | Qa1 | Rf6 |
| 19 | Qb7 | g4 |
| 20 | b5 | Nd4 |



THE TIMES
WORLD CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP

Diagram of final position



21 h3 Nf6
22 Be1 Rg8
23 Nd2 B6
24 Kh1 Bh4
25 Ne2 Bxe1
26 Nc3 f4
27 Bc2 Qg5
28 Nf3 Nf3
29 Bc3 Bc3
White res. game

Winning Move Page 40



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سكندر الاول

'For once, Britain has not been left behind in the transatlantic ideas race ... it is the pioneer'

At your service: government with a charter for change

When Ted Gaebler, one of the authors of *Reinventing Government*, attended our presidency conference on charter issues last December, it took me a little while to convince him that the citizen's charter white paper had come out on the same day that he took the manuscript — the best text yet written on how government should be organised — to the printers. The similarity of objectives and the parallelism of methods contained in the charter and in the book are remarkable.

For once, Britain has not been left behind in the transatlantic ideas race and, for me, nothing was more exciting than finding that our ideas and those of Mr Gaebler and his co-author, David Osborne, could reinforce each other: that we were in the forefront, with other pioneers in New Zealand and elsewhere, of a world-wide movement.

So what is it that is exciting so many people around the world, across the political spectrum from Jack Kemp, the conservative Republican, to the Fabian Society? What are

The Times
Essay

the ideas with which President Clinton outflanked President Bush, and with which the British Conservatives have wrong-footed their Liberal and Labour opponents (though we have some allies among them)?

The ideas are fundamentally these: we do not have to accept the bureaucratic, top-down, monopolistic model of governmental provision as inevitable. It is not surprising that the rule-bound, hierarchical, uncompetitive old-style service providers had begun to fail the people they were invented to serve, however good the people working in them (and ours were and are very good).

Any organisation that governs its employees by detailed rule books in the end will promote only the best operator of rules, not the innovator or the creator. Any organisation that believes it is accountable only upwards, to those who set the rules, will treat its citizen customers as troublemakers when they find the rules inconvenient — when the customers are the true owners of

In our series of articles on government, William Waldegrave, right, argues that the citizen's charter puts Britain in the forefront of world-wide moves to more accountability

the organisation. Any organisation where the people providing the service are secure in the knowledge that there is no competitive supplier will waste money, fail to innovate, and fail to listen to those who use the service. These truths are not special to the public service; many are the bureaucratised private companies which have forgotten them to their cost.

I do not think Britain's record is any worse than those of other Western democracies: an active Parliament and press have kept up useful pressure on service providers, if intermittently. But we were among the first to spot the big issue: that the huge changes in the efficiency of private sector organisations — which were achieved in the 1980s needed to be matched in government; and that this would need clear and original thinking allied to political will.

So, under Margaret Thatcher, the ideas began to germinate. How to get away from the dead hand of hierarchy, where no one was responsible for success or failure of management? Delegate financial responsibility down and measure outcomes, came the answer, and so was born first the financial management initiative and the Audit Commission and then the revolutionary Next Steps agencies in the civil service.

How to get competition in provision? Introduce the concept of the internal market, so that the holder of public funds can make providers of service, public and private, compete for contracts to the benefit of the public. Huge vested interests needed to be tackled to establish this doctrine, popularised in Britain by David Owen, first in health, then elsewhere. Ken Clarke and I saw that one through: John Patten is fighting a similar battle.

How, above all, to link the new freedoms of public sector management with the interest of the users, the patients, passengers, clients? Going exactly down the Osborne and Gaebler route, though originally independently, we realised the centrality of the setting and monitoring of openly published service targets, established by means of constant consultation with the users. John Major called this push

towards turning the service back towards the customer, and seeking competitive bids for provision to meet the targets, the citizen's charter.

When government is looked at in this way, certain other policies fall into place. As you work to establish internal competitive markets, it becomes obvious that where there is a real, external market, one that can be used for public benefit, it should be used: privateise, or franchise, or contract out if the private sector can meet the needs better. Bring government itself back towards its true role: steering, not rowing, the boat. If there has to be

monopoly (though this is the case much less often than might be assumed), then regulate it, set it targets, test it against common satisfaction measures. But if possible disentangle government, as champion of the users, from

the dangerous embrace of itself becoming a provider.

It was not democracy, in the end, which gained in power from bringing the "commanding heights" of the economy into Whitehall: as a dozen stories showed, from advanced

gas-cooled reactors via Concorde to coal mining, it was Whitehall itself which too often was captured.

Britain is genuinely the pioneer in reformulating and reinvigorating — reinvigorating — government in this way.



What specific British problems do we face? Not, surely, that identified by Professor Norman Lewis (*Times* Essay, April 19).

It is a strength, not a weakness, that we are not so law-bound as the United States. It is a strength that we are so far avoiding the terrible damage being done by the spread of litigation in America into so many relationships which should not normally be regulated by courts.

The citizen's charter should not aim to establish a spider's web of new justiciable rights. We should not be suing British Rail if the train is late, or the doctor if our stomachache is not cured instantly. It would be a disaster if the word "charter" led us that way: it would be instant death to the entrepreneurial, innovative leadership of public services we are seeking. The courts should deal, as they do now, with serious negligence and, via judicial review, the establishment of fair general principles of administration. The most serious threat in America to Osborne and Gaebler's views is the lethal combination of litigation and pressure groups which can kill innovation and introduce a desperate timidity into decision taking.

No, Professor John Stewart, that doughty campaigner for local government, has set us a

more productive challenge — a challenge we can meet. Namely, as we push accountability down, how do we ensure that those standards upon which parliament or local government do choose to insist, as is their inalienable right, are met? Where do we draw the line between those things for which the minister or local councils must answer and those for which managers, agencies or regulators are properly answerable?

It is right to ask the question — but it is not too difficult to answer, though these answers need to become clearer and more openly agreed than perhaps they are as yet. The precedents are well established, for example, the divisions in responsibility between politician as strategist and soldier as deliverer of strategies in war.

My message is therefore this: for once, let us blow our British trumpet. We need not moan and whinge that we are, as normal, left behind. We are not. Public servants from elsewhere in the European Community and beyond are coming in droves to talk to us and to see what we are doing, because they recognise that we are leaders in the field of public service reform.

The author is minister of public service and science

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Reinventing GOVERNMENT discussion

can private
enterprise
transform
the public
sector?

dinner

THE TIMES
In association with
The European Policy Forum

Tuesday
May 4, 1993

How can Government be transformed, decentralised, made accountable and increasingly capture the spirit of innovation and markets?

The US best-seller *Reinventing Government*, by David Osborne and Ted Gaebler, has provided the vision to see government in a new light. The authors' new ideas on how government should work have been embraced in the United States by liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans.

As Britain and Europe search for a similar vision of a reinvented government, *The Times* in association with the European Policy Forum is delighted to announce a special Dinner Discussion with David Osborne, co-author of *Reinventing Government*, providing the opportunity for all those involved in public service provision in the 1990s to meet and discuss these issues of importance.

The Dinner Discussion will take place on Tuesday May 4th, 1993 at the Langham Hotel, Portland Place, London W1 at 8.45 for 7.00 pm.

For tickets to the event please complete the coupon below and return to the European Policy Forum, 20 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA.

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مركز العمل

Serb commander says air action means world war

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT
AND TOM RHODES

AS THE international community appeared closer to air strikes against Serb positions last night, the British army received a stark warning of the consequences of such an action.

"It will be the start of the third world war if a single bomb falls on Serb territory," Lieutenant Colonel Janko Trivic, of the Bosnian Serb 22nd Vlasic Brigade, told Lt Col Bob Stewart at a meeting in the frontline town of Turbe. Lt Col Trivic said his guns were within range of the United Nations forces' base at Vitez and that British soldiers would be targeted if a decision was taken to bomb Serbia.

The meeting of the two commanders, which has taken five months to organise, was brokered by the Bosnian Muslims, who are keen to avoid any Serb aggression at a time when they are facing increased activity from Croat forces in central Bosnia.

Later Lt Col Stewart met Colonel Bebe Salto, Muslim brigade commander in

London is preparing to send RAF bombers to protect Canadian peacekeepers. The Serbs say they will turn their guns on British troops if a single bomb falls

Travnik, where he was told that the Croat defence forces had pulled out of the town. "It is now just a question of time as to when they will shoot at Travnik," Col Salto said. He added that the Croat forces "intended forcing Muslims out of Travnik and forcing them to lay down their weapons." Travnik, which was once considered a microcosm for the rest of Bosnia in terms of its ethnic make-up, has been swollen by the arrival of 15,000 Muslim refugees, Col Salto said that women and children would die if conflict broke out in the area.

In London, defence ministry officials were ordered to start work over the weekend on plans for sending bombers to Bosnia after an unexpected decision by ministers to offer unilateral military help to Canadian United Nations troops in Srebrenica.

The about-turn in policy

took the military by surprise. One official described it as bizarre. Until now the government has insisted that any action agreed would be under the auspices of the UN and Nato.

Officials, presented with government policy-changing, now have to make urgent contingency plans to send bombers to the region. Although Srebrenica remains calm, the government will have to act quickly if it is to fulfil its pledge to the Canadians.

The RAF is not in a position to act immediately. The only aircraft in the region, the six Tornado F3s based in Italy, are not bombers. The eight Royal Navy Sea Harriers on board the aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* are also inappropriate, since they are not armed with precision-guided weapons.

The government would have to send Tornado GR1s,

which have laser-targeting equipment, Jaguars which would need extra support in the air to help with targeting, or the RAF's new Harrier GR7s.

The growing evidence that Britain is giving way to mounting pressure from Washington to agree to limited air strikes or the lifting of the arms embargo for the Muslims put in doubt the government's priority, which has been to maintain the humanitarian relief effort in Bosnia.

For Lt Col Stewart, commander of the British forces in Bosnia, and for any commander in an operational role, it is crucial that any military action is bound inextricably to a strong political objective.

Lt Col Stewart and his soldiers have had to struggle against the odds to keep the aid supplies flowing. On many occasions he has stated that the only way he could succeed in his job was by being neutral. Neutrality has become increasingly difficult when confronted by atrocities.

EC ministers wait, page 1
Leading article, page 17



At first hand: Diego Arria, deputy president of the UN Security Council, on a visit to the scene of last week's massacre in the Muslim village of Ahinici, talking to Lt Col Bob Stewart, the commander of British forces in Bosnia

Envoys decry murderers who torched village

Fires of hatred are still raging in central Bosnia despite a ceasefire between Muslims and Croats, writes Tom Rhodes from Kiseljak



IT WAS the moment on Saturday night when all the calming words of mediation ceased to matter. The United Nations ambassadors had visited Ahinici, they had seen the charred victims of "ethnic cleansing" and now the British forces had ferried the envoys back to Kiseljak.

Diego Arria, the Venezuelan emissary, was forceful in his condemnation. "It is a disgrace, a criminal act," he said among the blackened ruins of the village. "This is not ethnic cleansing: it is ethnic extermination. There is still time to do something about what has happened here."

As the convoy of Warrior armoured personnel carriers left the UN representatives for the return journey to the army base at Vitez, it was obvious that it would take more than words to stop the killing.

The security council delegation went on to visit the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia yesterday, but Serbs barred journalists from going along, a UN officer said.

Back on the road to Vitez, as dusk turned to night, the sky was a vivid orange — up on the hill an entire village was alight. The evening ritual of "cleansing" had started.

Further on, the vehicle stopped. On the left, the Bosnian Croat houses were apparently untouched; to the right, less than 100 metres from the soldiers, a vision of hell. Clearly visible through the giant flames was the timberwork of at least five family homes.

A Croatian man pointed at the stairway to his own property, damaged by small-arms fire, saying: "Look, this is what happens when the British vehicles stop here. Tell them to leave." As to the houses on the other side of the street, he replied without emotion: "They are Muslim."

Red dots of tracer fire above the Warrior signalled that it was time to leave. Further down the road to Busovaca, however, the scene was the same. Communities, distant beacons on either side, lit the road.

It had been the full washing line, the child's shoe and the homeless dog which, perhaps more than the corpses, had made Ahinici so distressing. But this new destruction was somehow just as appalling. For the dead of Ahinici it was over: the horrors for the Muslim villagers off the Kiseljak road had only just begun.

That such attacks continue unabated in central Bosnia is of little surprise to the UN troops there. They have been watching the systematic destruction of enclaves for months. By

Bosnian standards, they say, the ceasefire agreed between Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian Muslim president, and Mate Boban, the Croatian defence leader, in Zagreb this week is holding. The burning, the constant thud of howitzers and the rattle of machinegun fire is apparently not relevant to that deal. The UN forces here increasingly find that their efforts to monitor the ceasefire are being undermined by local militias.

It is clear that Mr Boban and President Izetbegovic either have no control over their commanders in the field — whose own chain of command leaves much to be desired — or they deliberately turn a blind eye to the extremists on both sides.

A local Croatian journalist yesterday claimed that the Ahinici massacre was perpetrated by a group with the menacing name of "Black Night". These are



Escort duty: a British soldier in Bosnia

said to be a band of Croatian irregulars, formerly belonging to the extreme wing of the HVO Croatian defence force, whose black uniform and arm badges are reminiscent of the Waffen SS.

Those who do escape death or prison inevitably seek sanctuary with their own, thereby polarising the region even further and making any chance of later reconciliation seemingly impossible. The Vance-Owen plan to carve up central Bosnia into cantons has fuelled resentment and is seen by the local population as a cause for continuing the war.

Over a glass of shivovice, sometimes as early as 8am, the men and women of Vitez will say that the West should never have involved itself in a region whose complex history and Slavic temperament are entirely out of keeping with the European mind-set.



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Muslims seek arms as Karadzic signals deal to avert curbs

FROM TIM JUDAH
IN BELGRADE
AND JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

■ After Lord Owen warned Serbs of the consequences of not signing the peace plan, Belgrade is still manoeuvring to find ways round the threat of military action

WITH America and its European allies increasingly talking of limited air strikes, Serb leaders worked frantically yesterday to avoid tough new economic sanctions coming into force and to avert calls for military intervention. Lord Owen, in Belgrade, demanded that the Bosnian Serbs sign the peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina and warned of the consequences for all Serbs if they did not.

European Community foreign ministers, meeting in Denmark, indicated support for American moves toward Western air strikes, saying military action could not be ruled out if sanctions failed.

As the West manoeuvred, Bosnia said it was negotiating with Muslim countries to obtain arms. Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, criticised the international community, especially Britain, for what he called inaction and failure to lift the arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims. He was holding talks with countries attending the 21st Islamic conference of foreign ministers in Karachi.

Appearing directly to the people of rump Yugoslavia, Lord Owen said: "It is high time you realise that you are at

a very important threshold." He said that the "sanctions regime of extreme toughness" which was due to start at midnight New York time, would be very difficult to lift once it had started "until there has been total peace and major steps towards the peace plan in Bosnia".

The economies of Serbia and Montenegro have been crippled and the new sanctions are designed to plug loopholes. The Serbs were told by the United Nations Security Council that the only way to avoid new curbs would be with the signature of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, on the Vance-Owen peace plan.

"I have no new proposals," said Lord Owen. "I am not changing the plan. It is a simple question of signing the remaining documents. I profoundly hope Dr Karadzic will do so."

Yesterday afternoon Lord Owen was locked in talks with Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, and President Cosic of Yugoslavia.

In Bosnian Serb-controlled Bijeljina, the Bosnian Serb

parliament gathered to discuss the plan but was asked not to make any decisions until the Belgrade talks ended. Most deputies are against signing.

On Saturday, Dr Karadzic rejected the proposal of a UN-controlled land corridor to Serb-held territories in northern Bosnia and Croatia.

The Bosnian Serbs have said that they wanted a confederal state and that all their territories should be linked. The Vance-Owen plan proposes that Bosnia should be a state of ten semi-autonomous provinces. If the plan is accepted and enforced, then the Serbs would be unable to break away to join their areas in Bosnia and Croatia in a union of Serbian states.

Dr Karadzic said that he hoped that an "interim agreement" could be struck, which would prevent the new sanctions coming into force. Lord Owen also said that there was some room for altering provincial boundaries once the Serbs had signed the plan. If there was agreement, Dr Karadzic said that the Serbs would have a breathing space of "one to three months for further work on the maps and possible agreement". Optimism that a breakthrough was in the offing came from Athens, where television reported that the plan would be signed in Athens today.

Only 10 per cent of enterprises in Serbia are working normally. The new sanctions outlaw most trans-shipment of goods across Serbia to other countries and will ban all trans-shipment of cargo across Yugoslav territory, except those approved by a UN sanctions committee.

□ Sofia: Tougher UN sanctions will hit Bulgaria just as hard as they hit the rump Yugoslavia, President Zhelev said. "Bulgaria appears to be no less isolated... than Serbia and our economy will be hurt no less than Serbia's," he said, adding that Bulgaria would abide by the curbs. (Reuter)



Bloodied foes start to disengage

BY RICHARD BERTON
IN MOSTAR AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CROAT and Muslim-led Bosnian government forces began disengaging under United Nations observation in central Bosnia yesterday after ten days of fighting which killed at least 250 people, UN officials said. Patrols by British troops based in Vitez were defusing tensions and loosening militia checkpoints.

But artillery, machinegun and small-arms battles between Bosnia's estranged civil war allies continued in some enclaves, in spite of the ceasefire agreement signed on Saturday in Zagreb by President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Mate Boba, the Croat political chieftain.

Fighting persisted around Jablanica and Konjic on the main humanitarian aid route from the Adriatic coast, and UN patrols spotted burning homes in villages west of Vitez. "We are seeing significant withdrawals of Croat and Muslim troops to previous positions," Commander Barry Frewer, a UN Protection Force spokesman, said. "So the ceasefire seems to be coming into effect."

Some regional commanders, however, were not yet adhering to the truce pact — a chronic problem for UN peacekeepers who have arranged dozens of truces in Bosnia's fighting only to see them collapse from opposition or ignorance on the part of frontline units.

The commander of the British contingent in central Bosnia tried to stitch together truce agreements with local commanders on Sunday, but was having trouble overcoming Croat suspicions that Unprofor was favouring the Muslims. "Try to resist pulling the trigger, as I did the other day when I had two men in my sights," Lieutenant Colonel Bob Stewart appealed to one Croat commander. "I am not here to kill people but to avoid people getting killed."

Commander Frewer reported clashes along the mountainous Jablanica-Konjic corridor. Spanish Unprofor troops in armoured cars came under small-arms fire and grenades landed nearby. But there were no injuries, damage was not serious and fire was not returned.

However, in Mostar, the



On patrol: a Muslim soldier protecting a Bosnian village

fifth largest town in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the latest twist to the conflict has left a particularly bitter legacy. Both communities now fear that an all-out fight is inevitable. "I consider myself at war with the Croats," said Sulic

man, deputy commander of the Bosnian army in Mostar. He likened Croat behaviour to that of Croat fascists of the second world war and the Serb forces in last April's bloody battles.

A year since Muslims and

Croats forced out Serb fighters in one of the fiercest battles of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, fresh destruction has been wrought on this once elegant market town where former allies have turned their guns on each other.

"It was a like a horror movie," said Semir, a teacher and former soldier in the mainly Muslim Bosnian army. "During the day you would see Croat and Muslim soldiers sharing a beer in the pavement cafes, and as soon as night fell they would begin shooting at each other."

The ten days of street fighting, which left 42 people dead, was one of several battles across the republic where Bosnian army troops were pitted against militiamen of the Croat HVO. The fighting died down this weekend, after Lord Owen negotiated a ceasefire agreement in Zagreb for the two sides to set up a joint command.

In addition to reports of hundreds of Muslims killed and thousands made homeless in "ethnic cleansing" operations by Croats in central Bosnia, scores of Muslims in mixed areas of Mostar were evicted from their homes, which were looted.

"As far as I am concerned, those Croats responsible for the atrocities in the latest fighting should be tried as war criminals, just like the Serbs," the deputy commander said.

His stand is partly a result of the clear attempts by Croats to turn Mostar into the capital of a self-styled Croat state within Bosnia. Already the HVO has established its own mini-bureaucracy, levying customs and taxes, issuing licences and gradually taking control of Mostar's main institutions, from factories and hydro-electric plants to the university and the police force.

The Croat leadership insists it is simply preserving its culture in the face of what it insists are attempts by the Bosnian government to establish a Muslim state.

Many inhabitants fear the town will eventually be ethnically divided, with the Muslims on the eastern bank of the Neretva river and the Croats on the west bank. "Mostar means town of bridges," said Semir, lamenting the destruction of all but two of the town's seven bridges.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hurd dilutes pledge to Danes

Copenhagen: Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has retreated from Britain's promise to stand beside the Danes if they reject the Maastricht treaty in a second referendum (George Brock writes).

Under persistent questioning from Danish journalists, Mr Hurd refused to repeat support he gave to Denmark in December, a few days after the European Community summit in Edinburgh. Mr Hurd agreed that British ratification would stop if Denmark votes "no" in the May 18 referendum, but he added that the 12 EC states including Britain would then meet to discuss the "very serious crisis" that would be caused by the collapse of the treaty. "All kinds of ideas would come forward," he said.

Italian premier named today

Rome: President Scalfaro indicated he would seek a quick solution to the search for Italy's 52nd post-war government to protect the lira against speculation. He was expected to name his choice for prime minister by today (John Phillips writes).

Favourites are Romano Prodi, an economist; Mario Segni, the organiser of last week's referendum on reform; and Giuliano Amato, who could be asked to form a government in spite of his resignation as prime minister.

Iraqis refused

Valletta: The Maltese government has closed its gates to Iraqi refugees after 40,000 applied for visas at its Tehran consulate, the island's main refugee body said. Only 760 Iraqis were allowed on the island, which has a population of 350,000. (Reuter)

Papal triumph

Shkoder, Albania: The Pope said that the world should look to Albania, whose former communist rulers tried to eradicate religion, as proof that totalitarianism had failed abysmally. On a triumphant visit to the country, he consecrated four new bishops. (Reuter)

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK Plc

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11 a.m. Tuesday 27 April 1993

In view of the damage caused to the National Westminster Hall by the bomb explosion on 24 April, alternative arrangements have been made to allow the Annual General Meeting to take place as planned. The Meeting will now be held at the **Porter Tun Room, Whitbread Brewery Conference Centre, Chiswell Street, London EC1.**

Shareholders with any concerns or enquiries are invited to contact the Company Secretary's Office on 071 726 1046.

On behalf of the Board

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Poll turnout fuels Yeltsin's hopes in power struggle

FROM ANNE McELVOY
IN MOSCOW

■ A pro-Yeltsin vote cannot end the battle with the legislature. Yet it will enhance his authority and put him in a strong position to push for constitutional change

RUSSIANS from Vladivostok to St Petersburg flocked to the polling stations yesterday for the national vote of confidence in President Yeltsin and his reforms with a higher than expected turnout, suggesting an encouraging result for Mr Yeltsin in the critical battle for power with his parliamentary opponents.

Early returns from the Far East and areas where voting ended early gave the president's camp reason for optimism. Unofficial first results from Irkutsk in Siberia yielded a 60 per cent "yes" vote on the first and most important question: "Do you have faith in the president of the Russian Federation?" Other exit polls showed him above the 50 per cent hurdle.

Support on the second question, on the popularity of his economic reforms, was predictably lower at 48 per cent, but far from the decisive anti-vote his opponents had predicted if it is repeated across the country.

The electorate also appeared to be voting heavily for new

elections to the parliament, a sentiment Mr Yeltsin will interpret as backing for his plan announced on Friday to scrap the Congress of People's Deputies and establish a new, more manageable two-chamber parliament.

Voting took place at 96,776 polling stations, and Yevgeni Popov, of the central electoral commission, said that procedure had been orderly. Fishermen in the Arctic were allowed to cast their votes on Thursday and ballot papers in Orenburg, western Siberia, are to be picked up by boat because several polling stations are cut off by floods.

Russian passport-holders in the former Soviet republics were allowed to vote at consulates in big cities, although many were effectively excluded if they lived too far away to attend. Only 300,000 votes are expected to be cast outside the country's borders. The

Caucasian republic of Chechnya, which declared independence two years ago, did not take part.

The Kremlin leader voted early at his polling station on Nevsky Street in the centre of Moscow. Dropping his ballot paper into the urn with a flourish, he looked tired but confident. His wife Naina, who accompanied him, dalled in the booth, causing him to feign nervousness and joke: "Why is she taking so long in there? Maybe she is voting against me."

Spring weather in Moscow aided brisk voting with exit polls showing strong support. The enthusiastic turnout confounds fears that apathy could undermine Mr Yeltsin's chances and people seemed to have mastered the confusing format of four separate ballot papers, one for each question and the instruction to cross out the option they did not want.

Mr Yeltsin instructed his supporters to vote "yes" to all questions, including early presidential elections, but many aides recommended voting against early elections to the presidency as a way of emphasising support for him.

His most vocal foe, Russian Khasbulatov, strolled to his polling station in Moscow's Central House of Architects surrounded by supporters and muttering darkly about "well-known American ballot-manipulators" whom he alleged were on hand to help the government falsify the results in its favour.

While a pro-Yeltsin vote cannot alone end the battle with the legislature, it would put him in a stronger position from which to push for constitutional changes and enhance his authority, which has taken a battering at the hands of Congress.

On the eve of the referendum, Mr Yeltsin appealed to voters on Russian television not to neglect their chance to influence the country's future. "It is your turn now," he said. "I believe in your good sense. I hope for your support. We are together."



Military options: cadets from the academy at Frunze, southwest of Moscow, line up to vote in yesterday's poll. Early returns indicated a 60 per cent "yes" vote for President Yeltsin. Photograph: CHRIS HARRIS

Beer and cakes lure the citizens to do their duty

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN ST PETERSBURG

IT WAS a peaceful referendum in St Petersburg. The birthplace of the 1917 revolution did not seem about to give birth to another, whether for or against President Yeltsin.

According to informal polls in the city yesterday, Mr Yeltsin appeared to be heading for victory in the vote of confidence in his presidency but falling far short of the absolute majority of all voters demanded by parliament.

Paradoxically, Mr Yeltsin appeared likely to lose on the second question, concerning approval of his reforms. Several people, disregarding the propaganda of both sides, said they had voted for early elections for both president and parliament, "because we're fed up with the lot of them".

At voting stations, following a tradition from communist days, stalls were selling cakes and jam to encourage people to vote. In the nearby town of Vsevolozhsk, the authorities had a big asset: several dozen bottles of beer. They sold much better than the cakes, but not all those who bought them headed for the polling station.

The head of the electoral commission in the nearby village of Koltushi had a simple explanation for the lack of excitement: "It is peaceful here because there are no political parties to make any trouble."

The lack of organised party political activity and propaganda has been the most striking feature of this referendum. Both sides have fought their campaign mainly on television. New parties remain very weak, both financially and in terms of membership.

The Communists are still probably the largest party but they are also divided, and not very good at appealing for

votes. There is also general dislike for Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary speaker, partly because of his aggressive character and Chechen nationality.

The issue of presidential versus parliamentary authority has led to an uneasy alliance in St Petersburg between Anatoli Sobchak, the mayor, and the city council. Like Mr Yeltsin, Mr Sobchak has been directly elected by the local population, and like the president he has tried to use this to override opposition from the council.

The difference is that in St Petersburg, unlike the parliament in Moscow, the council contains a small majority of Western-minded democrats. Although now largely opposed to Mr Sobchak, they remain deeply hostile to the conservatives and former communists.

Some of the positions Mr Sobchak has taken over the past year suggested he was drawing closer to the conservatives. In the referendum, however, he threw his full support behind Mr Yeltsin. One reason could be that he remains a democratic reformist. Another might be that he had no choice.



Sobchak: uneasy alliance with council opponents

City hit by arms cut casts early vote

FROM DAVID LUNGGREN IN OMSK

THE citizens of Omsk, once at the centre of the Soviet arms industry, voted yesterday on reforms which have turned their world upside down.

Officials in some districts said 30 per cent of those eligible to vote in the city, about 1,450 miles east of Moscow, had done so in the first three hours since polls opened.

"This is very surprising. I had expected people to be pretty apathetic," said Natasha Galinova, returning officer for one polling station. "People here are fed up with their lives and want a breakthrough one way or the other."

Omsk, where 75 per cent of the 1.5 million population once worked for defence plants, has been badly hit by military spending cuts and many blame President Yeltsin for falling living standards. Andrei Tahuyk, 55, a machine-tool operator, said: "Everything used to be great. We had good jobs, high wages and a much better selection of food than most places."

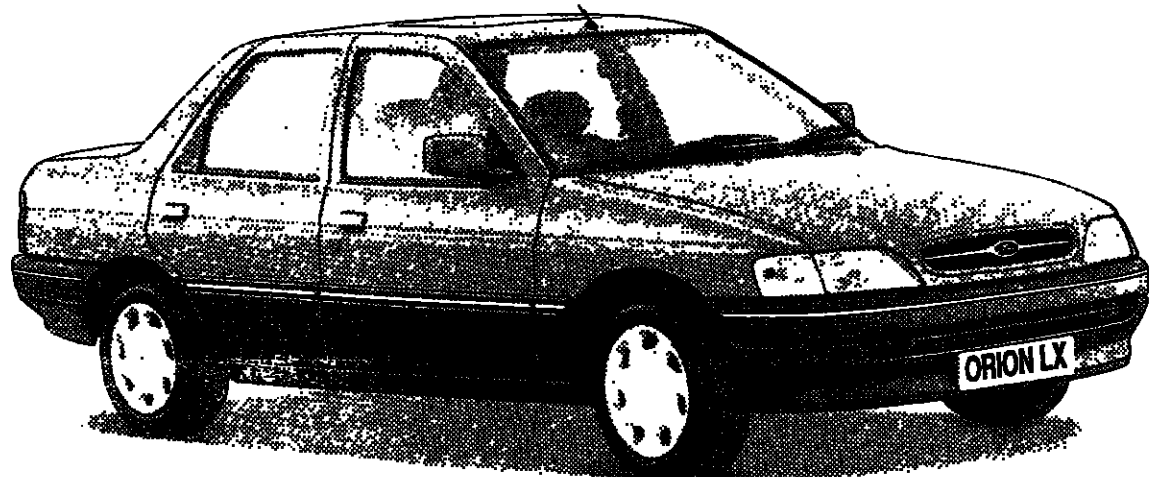
For decades, Omsk plants harked in the luxury of almost

unlimited military funds as rockets, tanks, radios and aircraft engines poured off the assembly lines. The city, which was closed to foreigners until 1991 — has the fourth highest concentration of military plants after Moscow, St Petersburg and Yekaterinburg. The government, desperate to reduce the overwhelming militarisation of the economy, has cut the defence budget by 80 per cent.

An informal poll of 100 people at four polling stations in the city showed 60 per cent backed Mr Yeltsin, but in the eastern working-class Kuibyshev region his share was just under 50 per cent. Few people said they had any confidence in Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary Speaker from the north Caucasian region of Chechnya.

"We don't need Khasbulatov. We have had enough foreign interference," said Natalya Fyodorova, a pensioner. "Stalin was Georgian and some of the tsars married Germans. I am not a racist, but we need a good Russian like Yeltsin." (Reuters)

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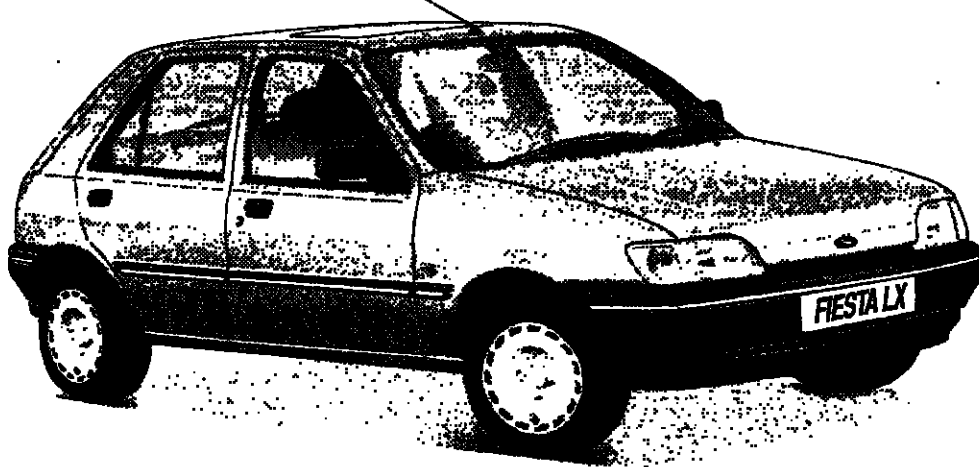
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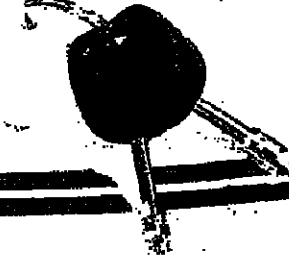
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Clinton leaves as gay rights carnival comes to town



Clinton: anxious to lift his popularity ratings

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

SEVERAL hundred thousand homosexual rights activists filled the streets of Washington yesterday for what has been billed as the biggest gay rights march in history, and one of the largest demonstrations held in the capital.

Gay couples, some in outrageous fancy dress, strolled through downtown Washington and gave this otherwise sombre bureaucratic city an air of exuberance and an atmosphere of Mardi Gras on a warm and sunny weekend. Unsuspecting tourists looked uncomfortable and distinctly out of place in the presence of drag queens or leather fetishists.

The demonstrators filled up the subway system, which had to cope with 400,000 trips, more than twice the usual during the weekend, and restaurants were unusually overcrowded. Airlines had to put up extra flights.

More than 300 separate events were mounted during the weekend, ranging from symbolic gay weddings to transvestite shows. There was a series of downtown mini-demonstrations ahead of yesterday's key event, the gay rights march, which started from the Mall, the 300ft-wide green stretch between Congress and the Monument.

On Saturday, 20,000 lesbians paraded past the White House, and earlier that day 30,000 protesters called for an increase in the funds for Aids research at a rally in front of Congress. The playful carnival mood, which had descended on Washington, sometimes belied the seriousness of the issues. But some demonstrators felt snubbed that one of their most ardent supporters, President Clinton, appeared to distance himself from the event, as

he left Washington for out-of-town engagements, including an address to newspaper editors in Boston.

Some observers in Washington believe that the president's efforts to avoid any gay photo-opportunities amount to a populist attempt to halt the fall in his popularity ratings, which are now among the worst for any president just days before the symbolic 100-day benchmark. Some of the placards at Saturday's demonstration depicted Mr Clinton with a Pinocchio nose. This weekend the president is still recovering from what is considered to have been his worst week in office, with the Waco disaster and the defeat in Congress of his economic stimulus package.

The president's strategy is to play down his support for gay issues, while not relenting on the issues in substance, especially his desire to allow gays into the military, an

initiative he made in his first days in office. During a news conference on Friday, he said that his support for gays was not born out of a special concern, but stemmed from a principled libertarian attitude and his deep-felt opposition to any kind of discrimination. His strategy to distance himself visibly, although not substantively, was in evidence two weeks ago, when he met gay leaders in the White House. No cameras were allowed in.

Americans are split and confused on the issue of equal gay rights. A poll by *The Washington Post*, published yesterday, found that most Americans think that gays should not face job discrimination, including in the military. But 53 per cent nevertheless feel that it is wrong for two consenting adults to have a homosexual relationship. A large majority is against homosexual weddings, while a small major-

ity is even against moves to legalise homosexual relationships. This means that Americans pretend tolerance, but in their majority nevertheless reject some of the gay's key demands made during the weekend demonstrations.

Members of the conservative right have been mounting ineffective and little-noticed counter-demonstrations in the centre of Washington, but this failed to make a dent in a weekend of a kind Washington has never seen before.

Among the more memorable events, more than 250 people, mostly gay military veterans, gathered round the Lincoln Memorial to urge an end to the ban on gays in the military. Sergeant Jose Zuniga, 23, publicly "came out" as gay during a speech, which he made in full uniform, thereby putting his military career at risk. Only a month ago, he received an award as Soldier of the Year for the 6th

Army. Another key event on Saturday was the mass "wedding" of 1,500 gay couples in front of the Inland Revenue building in a symbolic protest against what gays considered tax discrimination. Gays do not enjoy the same tax as married couples do, including those who are recognised in some states as "domestic partners".

Two shot dead: Post-mortem examinations have determined that two of the Branch Davidians found dead after the fire at the cult's compound in Texas died from gunshot wounds to the head (James Bone writes).

Dr Nizam Peerwani, responsible for conducting autopsies on the 48 bodies recovered so far, said the two were found next to each other. Each had died from a single gunshot to the head. He refused to speculate whether their wounds were the result of murder, suicide or exploding ammunition.

NEWS IN BRIEF

American flotilla takes aid to Cuba

Key West, Florida: Despite protests from Cuban exiles in Miami, the first vessels of a flotilla of American boats, carrying food and medicine from here, arrived in Havana (David Adams writes).

The humanitarian "flotilla of mercy," as organisers called it, is the first of its kind to go directly to Cuba from the United States since relations were cut between the two countries after President Castro came to power in 1959. The flotilla was approved by the American and Cuban governments, and humanitarian aid does not violate a 30-year-old US economic embargo.

Rough seas caused some boats to withdraw but organisers said at least ten craft would have made the 90-mile journey by tomorrow. The boats are carrying about \$100,000 (£63,700) worth of food and medicines.

Kidnap mystery

Quetta, Pakistan: The fate of three Europeans in Afghanistan was unclear. The three, including Jack Dadds from Britain, were anti-narcotics officials. Tribal leaders said they had been kidnapped but officials said they had been arrested. (Reuters)

Talks break up

Peking: China and Britain broke off talks on the political future of Hong Kong without agreement, but will reconvene on Wednesday and Thursday. Neither side would comment on any progress.

Bribes denied

Seoul: A team of investigators from South Korea's defence ministry questioned 29 high-ranking naval officers about their possible involvement in a widening bribes-for-promotion scandal. (Reuters)

Hijacker killed

Amritsar: Commandos stormed a hijacked Indian Airlines plane here, killing a Kashmiri gunman and freeing 140 passengers. Several said he was taken alive and shots were heard from the tarmac. (Reuters)

Pretoria and ANC under pressure to set poll date

Government and ANC negotiators want agreement on a transitional executive within six weeks. Otherwise, they fear, the talks process will become discredited

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE final push to set South Africa firmly on the road to majority rule begins today when political leaders are due to resume constitutional negotiations after nearly a year's break. Both the government and the African National Congress, as the key participants in the multiparty talks, are under pressure to deliver.

President de Klerk's response to the violence that erupted after the assassination two weeks ago of Chris Hani, the South African Communist Party general secretary, as well as his grip on the militant right wing, is viewed among some supporters as feeble. For the ANC/SACP alliance, still reeling from Hani's murder, the death on Saturday of Oliver Tambo, 75, the national chairman, is a reminder of the mortality of its leaders. Nelson Mandela, the president, who is in poor health and continues to maintain a punishing schedule, is only a year younger than Tambo.

The slow pace of negotiations is threatening to split the ANC. Urged on by Mr Mandela's estranged and embittered wife, Winnie, and Harry Gwala, the ANC leader in the Natal Midlands, militants, particularly in the youth wing, are becoming impatient.

Thousands walked out when Mr Mandela began his speech at Hani's funeral last week. So grave is the situation for the hierarchy that plans are reported to have been discussed to persuade Mr Mandela to commit his wife to a sanatorium abroad for psychiatric treatment.

At the talks today, the ANC's priorities will be to demand a firm date for a general election within a year and the installation of a transitional executive council, which would give the government and the ANC joint control of the security forces, by the end of June.

Both Roelf Meyer, the minister of constitutional development and the government's chief negotiator, and Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, believe that the formation of a transitional executive council must be negotiated within six weeks. Mr Ramaphosa said: "If we do not deliver in that time the whole negotiation process will become discredited."

President de Klerk told parliament last week: "We dare not allow a handful of violent people to turn the country into another Yugoslavia." But the government maintains that other players, in particular the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and the white opposition Conservative Party, will have to be consulted.

However, Mr de Klerk has repeated a warning that the government was intent on reaching a settlement. "If there is sufficient consensus among the major role players but not parties with very little support, then we can go ahead without the others."

Township murder: Three suspects have been handed to the police by the ANC in Sharpeville, south of Johannesburg, following the murder of a black television reporter, Calvin Thigao, on Friday.

He and Dudley Saunders, a white cameraman with the South African Broadcasting Corporation, were attacked by about 30 youths and their equipment stolen. Saunders, who was badly injured, is in hospital. The ANC said the attackers were criminals and there was no political motive.

Obituary, page 19



Steps to freedom: an Eritrean woman leading a dance at the weekend after voting in the United Nations-supervised referendum on independence from Ethiopia. Tens of thousands of Eritreans took to the

streets of Asmara, the capital, for an open-air party to celebrate the coming independence (Jonathan Clayton writes). Voting in the three-day poll ended last night and the formal result is expected in a few days. The

outcome is not in doubt. About 1.3 million voters have delivered a resounding "yes". Most Eritreans, impatient to see the prize of 30 years of civil war — Africa's longest — voted in festive scenes soon after

polling stations opened on Friday. The man set to be the country's first head of state is Isayas Aferwerki, leader of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, which led the independence struggle. (Reuters)

UN troops alerted for port attack by Somali warlord

FROM SAM KILEY IN KISMAYU

BELGIAN troops yesterday increased security in the port of Kismayu in anticipation of an attack by Colonel Omar Jess, a local warlord who was driven out by a rival three weeks ago. United Nations officials were working to keep the peace in the most important test for the UN here since American-led forces invaded Somalia four months ago.

Belgian military intelligence reported suspicious movements of militia under the command of Colonel Jess, leader of the Somali Patriotic Movement, north of the city. They fear that his men may have infiltrated the town in an attempt to drive out his arch-rival, General Siad Hirsi Morgan.

But while the Belgian soldiers are confident that they

could contain an assault, UN political officers are working to maintain peace with fewer resources than the smallest aid agency in the country possesses.

Their two-man team has only irregular radio contact with headquarters in the capital, Mogadishu. They travel in rickety bush-taxis into the hostile hinterland where the warlords' militias are based, have no budget to speak of, and irregular supplies of food.

They arrived a month ago without briefings on Somalia's confusing clan structure, which is at the root of the civil war and a famine which has claimed at least 400,000 lives in the past year.

Admiral Jonathan Howe, who recently took over as the special representative to So-

malia of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, wants to bring the various UN agencies in Somalia under his command.

Even if such a radical management change is agreed, it may come too late for Kismayu, where General Morgan's troops drove out rival members of the Ogadeni Darod clan in fighting which left at least 100 dead — in spite of the efforts of Belgian troops to intervene.

UN officials take over responsibility for the foreign troops in Somalia next month. Mark Walsh, head of the UN negotiators in Kismayu, said that if they failed to keep the peace here "the whole house of cards could come down across the country".

Palestinians warn against stalemate

FROM BEN LYNFIELD AT ALLENBY BRIDGE, WEST BANK

PALESTINIAN negotiators departed yesterday for a crucial round of Middle East peace talks in Washington, warning that neither they nor Israel can bear the price of further stalemate.

"If we will not succeed, hardliners will take over on all sides and we will enter a disaster situation in this area," said Faisal Husseini, head of the Palestinian team, during a send-off at the Jordanian border by several dozen loyalists. The low turnout appeared to reflect reduced Palestinian enthusiasm for the peace process.

In contrast, Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, in an interview from Tunis broadcast yesterday by the BBC, predicted a Palestinian state "within not more than between one and a half and two years. It is a

matter of time... It is one of the Middle East facts and certainties."

In Jerusalem, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, signalled that he is anxious for progress but remains wary of Arab intentions. "We and our neighbours must know that there can be no false peace. We want genuine peace with genuine security."

Mr Husseini predicted President Clinton's Middle East team would actively prod Israel to be forthcoming on self-rule arrangements.

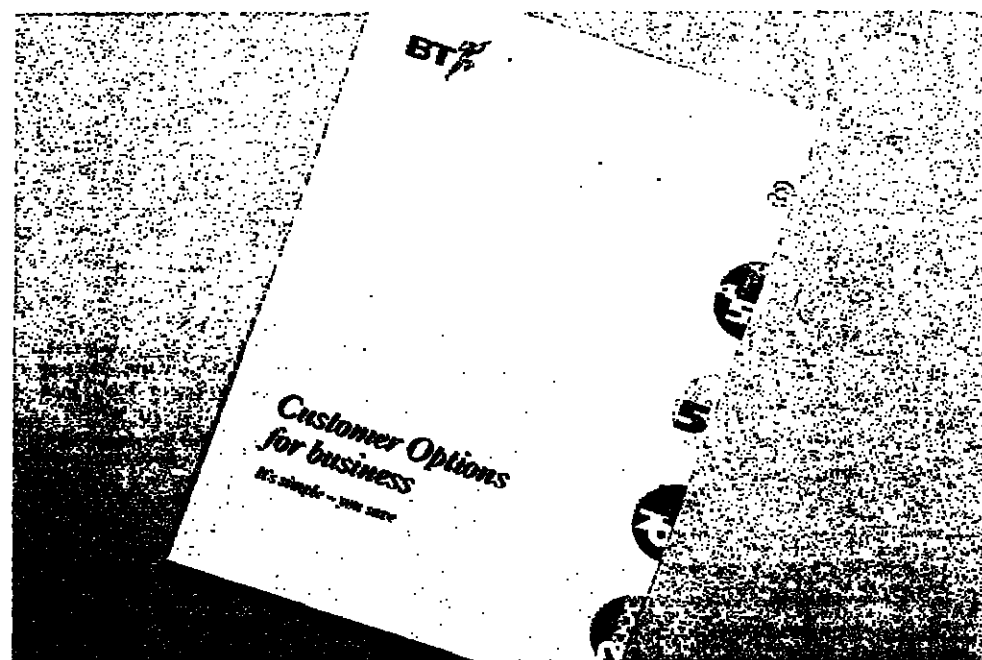
In further troubles, Israeli soldiers killed an unidentified Iraqi who tried to cross into southern Israel from Jordan. In Lebanon, a masked gunman killed a Palestinian clergyman and wounded five others in a refugee camp.

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After ripping up raw rabbit in the rain, 13-year-old girls are ready for whatever the adult world throws at them

Survival of the soggiest

You have to harden your heart in this trade. In the chilly drizzle of Saturday morning, I was led by a guide through thigh-high nettles in a tangled woodland to where fiftal smoke rose from pathetic, dripping shelters of twig and plastic sheeting. Pale faces looked up indifferently. One little girl awoke with a start, her head against the bark of a damp tree.

"Had a good sleep? Feel better for it?" said my guide briskly. "No," said the huddled figure. "Worse." "Get moving. You could borrow some embers from the next group. There's some nettle soup, and you'll need to skin your rabbit soon." It took all my deep reserves of callousness not to mutter to the derelict child that my car was parked just beyond the undergrowth, with a bar of chocolate in the glove pocket.

This was — and as I write on Sunday afternoon, still is — the St Felix "Upper IV Survival Challenge". Time was when you could

put off survival challenges to at least the lower sixth, and what is more take a tent and a bedroll with you. But times are hard now, and the education of girls requires the inculcation of even more stely resolve than ever.

If you are going to send a girl out into all that harassment and power-dressing and working motherhood, you need to push her into the wild before puberty strikes, to rip up raw rabbits with her bare hands in the rain. Only thus can we ensure a supply of Virginia Bottomleys for the future. When the head of St Felix, a girls' public school in Suffolk, rang me outlining her plans, there was a certain bracing logic in it: schools, she said, keep asking parents to pay £250 for children to go to unknown adventure centres, but

"They can have just as much of an adventure two miles from school for £5".

Accordingly 38 13-year-old girls were taught to build shelters and lectured on survival by Mr Mace, the Rural Youth Project Worker ("Yes, these are the youngest anyone would think of taking, but girls have a lot of stamina and they learn well"). They were fed Friday supper and required to walk ten miles to try out their night navigation. Girls being girls, Lynda Branson, the Activities mistress, made sure that they were first frisked not only for illicit Walkmans and Twix bars, but also for such unnecessary luxuries as watches and torches. Everyone was allowed a small tobacco tin to cook in, containing such gritty basics as a personal hacksaw blade



LIBBY PURVES

sharpened at one end, waterproof matches, a whistle, a fishing-line, a stub of candle and a potato; also a fertiliser bag and baler-twine.

"You are supposed", said Miss Branson regretfully, "to have a condom, for carrying water. But we put 'balloon' on the list. Some parents get anxious enough without their 13-year-old daughters

coming home with a list saying 'condom'."

The first night, rain tipped down on the hike. They squelched on for some miles before cramming into a rather nifty wartime bunker to sleep through the worst of it. The various sodden bobble-hats I met at dawn became quite animated on the subject.

"Every time you sat up to ease the cramp", said a waiflike child, "when you lay back there was someone's leg on your bit of floor." In the dawn they built forest shelters, where I found them blowing on damp twigs while raw potatoes lay hopefully in tobacco-tins of brackish water. This being a complete year-group, one could identify not only nature's girl guides and leaders but nature's drips and supermodels as well. A

few of the hungriest cautiously eyed the dead rabbits provided by Mr Mace. They had been let off snaring them personally, but the rest was up to them.

One waif said: "You have to run your hands down them and press out excess urine." "I really can't take to liking this," said another, gazing at a bloody handful. "Can you, Gemma?" "Dig your fingers in between the skin and the flesh, that's it," urged Mr Mace. Hungry, they dug. "What have you learnt?" I enquired of a passing supermodel. "Not to go out when it's wet," she said.

But by Saturday afternoon, in watery sunshine, all had eaten rabbit-and-potato-and-nettle stew, sorted out their fires and planned

another night exercise, stretcher-bearing across rough country. I tell you, British industry is going to need these girls one day. It was a pity that towards midnight an apocalyptic thunderstorm crashed across the Eastern counties. I got soaked to the skin just crossing a pub car-park, and wondered a little.

And indeed the school minibus shuddered through the small hours, Miss Branson at the helm, rescuing 32 sodden victims whose twig huts collapsed under sheer weight of water and brought fertiliser-bagfuls of it down on them. Dormitories can never have looked so good.

But mark, only 32. Six girls refused all minibus relief, stuck to their shelter, and kept the twig fires burning. Let's hear it for Fay, Arabella, Natalie, Jo, Sophie and Clare. But don't let Mr Patten see this: he'll have thousands of them out there. And a league table published, of who dug their thumb furthest into the rabbit.

MATT FORD

With effort, you can live on air

The Cornish call an outsider an emmet, the old dialect word for ant. Nowhere does one feel more emmetlike than on the Lizard peninsula, where the humbling effect of the ferociously rugged coastline has, since March 2, been compounded by the presence of a few miles inland, on the windswept expanse of Coonally Downs, of 14 slim, grey, silent giants whirling their arms against the sky. This is Britain's newest wind farm, one of 30 now generating electricity or under construction in the gusty outposts of these islands.

Placed in rows beside the vast satellite dishes of British Telecom's Earth Station they are undeniably elegant and well-sited, these austere tapering columns 120ft high with their neat heads of rotating blades. Definitely the designer version of the old-fashioned windmill. They are also slightly spooky. When, at sunset, a female emmet opens a door in one of the towers, climbs in and a shaft of strange green light spills on the grass, you wonder: an extra-terrestrial phoning home?

In fact this is Tessa Lyle, hotshot London lawyer turned wind farmer, discreetly checking to see how much power was lost that morning when the turbines were switched off in deference to David Lugg's quixotic cows. David Lugg is the neighbouring farmer. When he tried to move his cattle past the site they just stood there, mesmerised, and refused to budge. Robbie Lyle, Tessa's Cornish husband, un-

Margot Norman discovers a couple who found the solution to their tax problems blowing in the wind

derstood: what is a cow to do when faced with giant versions of the humans who flail their arms to herd you?

Happily the cows, like the locals, quickly adjusted to Cornwall's third wind farm. It went up in only two months, a construction record that brought plaudits from the prime minister, and boosted the local economy by £700,000. The technology is from the Danish company Vestas, but local builders prepared the site and put up the South West Electricity Board's terminal building to which the power is piped underground from each turbine.

The Lyles took a bold gamble when they set up The Cornwall Light & Power Company and borrowed £5.3 million, mostly from Natwest. It took three years to get planning permission, a period of acute financial anxiety and furious, midnight-oil-burning paperwork which exhausted even Tessa, who was used to the demanding workload of a litigation partner at the solicitors Herbert Smith. They would not have embarked on the project had they been able to see any other way of making the family estate pay, but it would have cost them £250,000 if the project had been aborted.

Robbie Lyle inherited the Bonython estate four years ago from his father, along with

mountainous (and still not settled) death duties. Lyles have owned the land since 1691 and the manor house, with its handsome Adam-ish granite facade, since an ancestor bought it with some of his tin-mining fortune in the 1830s. They are hereditary Lords of the Lizard, an office associated with the now defunct Stannary courts which for 500 years dispensed justice among the tin miners.

Robbie, the soul of old English generosity and courtesy, was brought up to the life of a wealthy gentleman by a stockbroker father who for three months of the year would come down to Cornwall, entertain his friends and contemplate his acres. Inheriting brought a rude shock: "Dairy farming would have been the only profitable option, but the milk quota had been sold so that was impossible, and the Home Farm land was too poor for traditional arable crops. This has always been a windy spot, and the idea of the wind farm came to me suddenly as I realised I'd literally have to make a living out of thin air."

Soon afterwards he married Tessa, whom he had met when they were both undergraduates at Oxford. He read history, she read modern languages, and they had in

common two Labour peers who eventually thought better of socialism: her father Lord (Christopher) Mayhew and his uncle Lord (Woodrow) Wyatt. (Their baby son Christopher is nicknamed Whiglet in consequence.)

Tessa is shocked by the blumph-and-bureaucracy quotient of her new rural existence. "I had no idea a modern farmer had to be accountant, lawyer and bio-chemist as well," she says, in an office piled high with forms from the Ministry of Agriculture, English Nature and a dozen other official bodies. After struggling to follow the rules for registering all farmland under the Integrated Administrative Control System for the avoidance of EC subsidy fraud by the impossible May 15 deadline, she finds the Country Landowner's Association has a hotline explaining the Ministry's explanatory notes.

After ten years in China running a dairy farm and acting as trade consultant for Henry Kissinger, and generally fixing anything from panda loans to American zoos to permits for the explorer Robin Hanbury-Tenison's ride along the Great Wall, Robbie Lyle knows about bureaucracy.

"Excellent! That means they're about to give in!" he would say cheerfully when the Chinese finally refused any permit. He was usually right. He also has strong nerves, being an insurance man specialising in political risk whose latest scheme, through the European Investment Guarantee Agency, is to insure for-



Crisis, watt crisis? Tessa Lyle, her son Christopher, and one of the family wind turbines on the Lizard

eign-owned companies in Russia.

Even so he spends as much time as his wife glancing nervously out of the window to check the wind-speed. This is a matter of life and death for Cornwall Light & Power, but the company's 2.3 megawatt

output is negligible in relation to national consumption of 15,000 megawatts. So far only about 100 megawatts are on stream from wind power and, as it still costs more than twice as much as coal-fired electricity, none of this environmentally friendly generation would

be happening without the NOFFO (Non Fossil Fuel Obligation) subsidy, which is guaranteed until 1998.

To produce significant amounts of windpower field upon field of turbines would have to be planted and the public might well cease re-

garding such visually dominant objects as environmentally friendly after all. The test of that may come when plans for Europe's biggest wind farm, 260 turbines producing 80 megawatts on a site in Cumbria, are considered later this year.

"Tourism both disturbs the calm of Cambridge's university and puts the very fabric of the older buildings at risk"

Walter Ellis explains how an ancient seat of learning is turning into a theme park

THE age-old conflict between town and gown in Cambridge has taken on a new twist in the latter years of our century: tourist versus purist.

Visitors from overseas now flock to Cambridge in their millions. So much so that the city, from April to October, is a babble of tongues, and the queues to view the best-known university sights rival those outside the Tower of London or Madame Tussaud's.

Academics and college authorities are becoming increasingly worried, not only that the immemorial calm of the university, essential to study, is being disturbed, but that the very fabric of the older buildings is at risk, with untold consequences.

One day, showing a visitor round St John's College yesterday morning, could be heard lamenting that at the height of the season 1,500 visitors at a time tramped his corridors and pathways, often ignoring "Keep off the grass" signs and straying into areas marked "Private". Parts of St John's, he said, had had to be cordoned off, so bad was the condition of floors and plaster work, and even college members would be kept away, "except that open access is their birthright."



Tourist's point of view: King's College, with its famous chapel, is a principal target for visitors

St John's, with its Bridge of Sighs over the River Cam, series of courts and broad, sweeping lawns, has sought for the last year to regulate the flow of tourists, and generate valuable income at the same time, by charging £1 admission and 50p for children. In return it offers an illustrated pamphlet and a designated tour.

Queen's College, at the southern end of the famous college "Backs", seen from the river, also charges admission, but in its case not so much to control admission to the campus itself as to discourage coach parties from using it as a convenient entry point for King's College.

Henry VI's incomparable chapel at King's is, of course, the mecca for Cambridge tourists, and the college's decision to impose a £2 levy from June, while disappoint-

ing the unrestricted-entry school of heritage trail-blazers, seems an inevitable response to a growth in secular pilgrimage that threatens its very existence as a place of worship.

On Saturday afternoon, it appeared to be Italian Open Day at King's. Half of Milan seemingly had arrived in Cambridge for the day, and nearly all were determined to "do" King's College's celebrated fan-vaulted ceiling and Ruben's Adoration of the Magi, no matter how long it took. By 5.30, with Evensong about to begin, the same crowds were perfectly happy to turn divine service into a theatrical experience of the English heresy.

They got superb value, too. The choir offered them the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, and the Rev George Pattison, Dean of Chapel, delivered Plain-song with all the assurance of a master.

Junior choristers from the college choir school are well used to being tourist attractions. Changed out of their red and white surplices into trip hats and Eton jackets complete with winged collars, they gathered round me to announce their individual triumphs.

"I'm Guy Johnston. My brother, Magnus, is head chorister. Our other brother, Rupert, was here before us." "I'm Benjamin Dawson. I

sang Peace, Perfect Peace at the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall."

"And I'm Richard Stringer. When I sang Once in Royal David's City in the chapel at Christmas, we had 180 million listeners."

Public property. And how the visitors love them. This was the England they had come to see.

The irony, entirely in accord with ecclesiastical principle, is that matins and evensong, and all other services, although more and more perceived as tourist offerings, are to remain free of charge. A collection, as always, will be taken up for a charitable cause, but the £2 entry will go a-begging.

Even so King's undoubtedly will benefit from the change, and there may be enough cash from the levy eventually to meet the

£50,000 cost of relaying services electronically to the back of the church.

Other colleges face less obvious pressure. Emmanuel, a joy as much for its elegant duck ponds as for its chapel, is tucked away down St Andrew's Street, far from the madding crowd.

But it does not escape completely unscathed. According to the lodge porter, the alarm bells in the chapel, protecting Amigoni's masterpiece, The Return of the Prodigal Son, go off at least once a day as visitors ignore warnings not to approach the altar. "I think most of them can't read," he complains.

ALL over the university area, the signs of encroaching hostility to tourists are visible. The city authorities are well aware of the economic boost visitors represent and do nothing to discourage their arrival. Both city and university, however, think that tourism could get out of hand and are working together to control the flow.

Entrée Interdite: Prohibida la Entrada; Vietato Entrare; Eintritt Verboten; Engang Forbudt. In Corpus Christi, the signs tell strangers to keep off the grass in Japanese.

Intrusion, alas, is the price of fame. The purists, who wish to keep Cambridge as a remote institute of learning cut off in the Fens, cannot easily be reconciled to the notion of their university as a theme park. Equally, the tourists, punting cheerfully down the Cam, do not all obviously appreciate the place's primary purpose. Charges represent an uneasy truce, but one with which both sides probably can live.

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Get back into the kitchen



If the modern woman is secure enough to cast off the left-overs from the power-dressed, power-obsessed 1980s, then what is she doing putting her pinnie back on?



Fashion
by IAIN R. WEBB



During the 'American election campaign Hillary Clinton found herself the focus of media attention, as any prospective First Lady would. She courted the press, as any presidential candidate's wife would. Yet her hard-nosed image as a successful lawyer did not charm the world's media. It was suggested that she should take a back seat during the campaign, be more of a wife, and less of a... well, less like herself. Her image softened overnight. She became glamorous, but not threatening. She looked just like a president's wife should (Jackie O and Nancy Reagan excepted). Even in the nineties, the world could not cope with Hillary Clinton as the person she is. A strong person, who just happens to be a female person.

What does all this have to do with the frocks designers are pushing this spring? There can be few who do not know that fashion has opened its doors and embraced a new mood. The return to femininity is the big story in magazines, newspapers, and even the stores, for spring/summer 1993. Shapes have changed, fabrics have changed, and colours have changed. Everything is softer and, well, more feminine. The message seems to be that women should once again be dressing more like women. Pretty. Frothy. Soft. Are all buzz words being banded about in the fashion business. Chiffon. Ruffles. Lace. All are items on sale at a store near you. Whether work-

ing women will embrace them with quite the same dewy-eyed fervour as the fashion press is, of course, questionable.

While this new spirit is obviously little more than the reactive flipside to the harder, virile looks which were themselves left-overs of the power-dressed, power-obsessed eighties, the new route designers are taking does have its darker side.

Some would argue that the Western woman of the nineties has finally taken control of her life, gained her rights, and no longer has to worry about being taken less seriously than her male counterparts. Her strengths realised, she can now play around with self-image, escaping the trap of dressing like a man to make her mark in a man's world. Today she is free to be whoever she wants to be and dress accordingly.

Although naive, this is in part true. However, looking at the clothes on offer this season, it would appear that, for some, the eighties never happened. The apron dress, a favourite with all sorts of designers, drags women back to the fifties, when a woman's place was in the home. More often than not, in the kitchen.

One of the big problems with fashion is sifting through the "witty" and "amusing", to discover what does, and does not have any real sociological meaning. It is easy to make sweeping statements about the length of a hemline echoing global economics, or fantasy fashion resurfacing during a period of bleak recession, but

little things, like the appearance of the apron dress, often get overlooked. Its reappearance is telling if we are to believe that fashion is a reactionary form of design, a reflection of the times in which we live.

There can be few women who would willingly be tied to the kitchen sink. Fewer still who would want to don the uniform of such domestic bondage, and yet the apron is now the inspiration for designers and retailers as diverse as Karl Lagerfeld, Top Shop, Anna Sui, Marcel Marongui, Jigsaw, Agnes B, Liza Bruce and Lolita Lempicka.

Dresses on the theme mimic the housewife's piny and attempt to make it into just another style to be worn. But are the implications too scary for women who have struggled to escape the stranglehold of a career as a "domestic technician"?

Of course, the idea is not that new. Jean Paul Gaultier, the master of post-modern juxtaposition, covered his sharp-edged ladies' pinstripe suits with diaphanous floral chiffon aprons during the Wall Street-obsessed eighties. Frenchman Gaultier was inspired by his concubine, but aside from its aesthetic appeal, his collection made the statement that women had reached a period in history when they not only had the choice to dress in either a masculine or feminine mode, but they could do both at the same time. His message was clear: we are

Above: Wet-look apron dress, £225, Liza Bruce, to order (081 749 2020). Black lace gloves, £25, Cornelia James, from all major department stores. Saucepans, from a selection at John Lewis, Oxford Street W1, and branches nationwide

Above left: Blue apron dress, £24.99, Top Shop, selected branches nationwide, (071 434 4849). Pale blue cotton long sleeved T-shirt, £49, El Vous, 126 Kings Road, SW3. Colander, John Lewis nationwide

Above right: Check cotton apron dress, £48; black and white spot chiton shirt, £58, Jigsaw, all branches (081 878 8443). Black suede shoes, £160, Stephen Kellan, 49a Soane Street, W1; 11 Grosvenor Street, W1. Tights, £2.99, Ultra Five, Aristoc, from all major department stores. Kettle, John Lewis nationwide

Photographs: Marilyn Thompson. Makeup: Sharon Ives. Hair: Rick Haytor at John Frieda, using John Frieda products

none of us either singularly masculine or feminine in our make-up.

As menswear tends to follow the lead of womenswear, a season or two later, it will be interesting to watch and see if designers turn the (kitchen) tables on men and offer lace-edged pinnies (to be worn over businesslike suits) for the man who never quite managed to sever the apron strings.

Bristling with nostalgia

WATCH that man, David Bowie is again the hero of the style-conscious, but forget his recent musical offerings (and look), this is Ziggy nostalgia. The latest issue of *Arena* magazine is a Bowie blockbuster issue, and now *Harpers & Queen* pays tribute.

Spiky "toilet brush" hairstyles are bristling back, coloured with a bright orange rinse, and with Bowie did fringe dye job, just the way Bowie did for his Young Americans album cover. The new crop of mini models, spearheaded by Emma Ballfour, now look like fully signed-up members of the David Bowie fan club. Oh you pretty things!

● A NEW store has thrown open its doors in Covent Garden. SPACE NK sells an up-to-the-minute collection of clothes, accessories, makeup and

HOTLINE
objets d'art in a stark white warehouse space sited under the Thomas Neals complex. Essential fashion classics are set against funky seasonal items from Liza Bruce, Abe Hamilton, Fornasetti and Shu Uemura, to name but a few. In addition, an in-store cafe serves edible rewards for shoppers. SPACE NK, 41 Earlham Street, Covent Garden, London WC2.

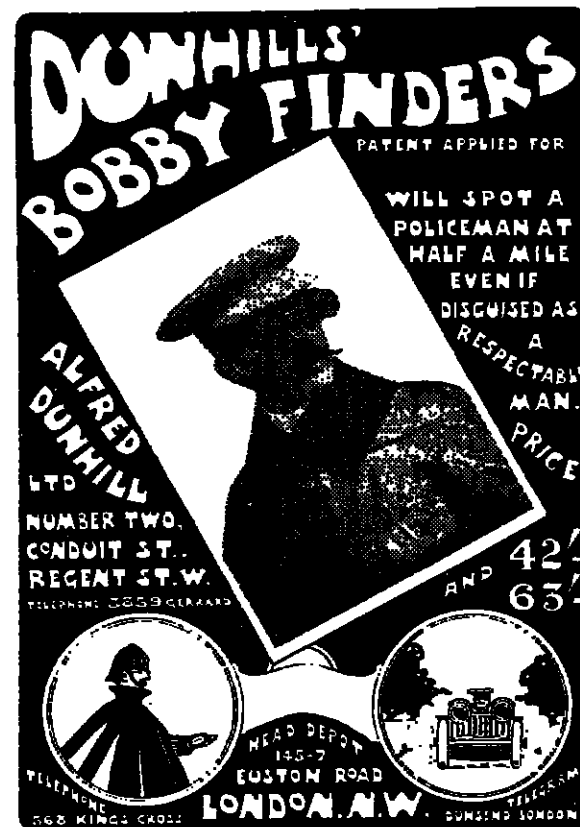
● THE Romanian Orphanage Trust is a children's charity working to help 130,000 orphanage children. The trust is holding a fund-raising fashion ball on May 14 at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London. An evening of glamour, promised with surprise musical guests, a fashion show featuring designers and some of Britain's leading paraphernalia, an auction of celebrity paraphernalia. All funds raised will help to launch the trust's foster-care initiative, which has been set up to help Romanian families

adopt orphaned children. Tickets for the evening, which includes a champagne reception, dinner and dancing, are priced at £75 (071 248 2424). Credit-card bookings can be made.

● IF you are looking for designer labels at half the price, look no further than the Designer Collection shop which from the May 1, for a month, will be selling current spring/summer collections by Maxmara, Sportmax, Weekend, La Perla and Gortex. Swimwear by La Perla, which usually retails at about £260, will be sold at £130. Gortex and Maxmara can be bought for as little as £40. Tailored trousers, jackets, skirts and jersey tops come in every-which-way fabric and colour and all this season's styles are available for fashion fans on a budget. Designer Collections, 103 New Bond Street, London W1.

● The winners of the Mulberry photographer's waistcoats are Judith Dobie, from Dumfries, and Daniel Range, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

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Matthew Parris



■ England stands for tasteless sausages, useless plumbing and ridiculous pub times — and we can't even blame Brussels

England, said Mr Major last week (actually, he said Britain, but he plainly meant England), "the country of long shadows on county grounds, warm beer, invincible green suburbs, dog lovers and pools fillers... These commendable features of our native land, he suggested, would survive unthreatened by Brussels. Do you find, like me, that the most arresting thoughts can arise from that first mishearing, misreading or mistaking someone's meaning? I thought Mr Major was being sarcastic. I thought he was poo-pooing our tendency to lurch on to the most ghastly features of our British way of life and persuade ourselves they are to be cherished simply because they are British. Only upon re-reading his remarks did I realise that he really does — mean it.

But the first interpretation was more interesting, for does it not lead us to ask just how many awful things about England are acceptable, even desirable, only because they're somehow "English"? Let me, besides pool-filling, warm beer, and dog droppings, list a few:

- cricket;
- pub closing times;
- contempt for bidders;
- three-wheeled cars;
- driving on sidewalks;
- useless showers;
- no mixer taps;
- net curtains;
- endless tea breaks;
- train loos emptying on to rails;
- unspeakable Sundays;
- tasteless sausages;
- bad ice-cream...

Now let me take you for a moment to another country. It is an England where the ice-cream is varied and delicious and made from real cream, the sausages spicy and full of real meat, and where fish and chip shops open on Sundays. Life, you may think, would be better. Now, imagine that a Belgian commissioner in Brussels was to propose an EC directive enlarging the definition of "sausage" to include things made with bread, gristle and tallow and enclosed in nylon skins so that continental food manufacturers could market these atrocities in Britain as "sausages". Just imagine the outcry! Parliament would be in uproar. The Sun would be filled with scornful attacks upon the Euro-sausage. Teddy Taylor would stage a ritual incineration of a trolleyfull of them at Dover.

Then imagine that "ice-cream" made with non-milk fats and artificial colour and flavourings was to pour in from Luxembourg. The demand that it be clearly marked as not ice-cream would be immediate. Finally, suppose that a German commissioner should order us to close all fish and

chip shops on a Sunday. Would we submit? Would we heck? Suppose next that toilets in British trains had proper waste tanks beneath them so that the sewage could be regularly drained and properly treated; but that BR were to purchase a set of new continental railway carriages, manufactured in France, whose lavatories dropped their contents straight on to the rails beneath. Signs, in English and French, would be displayed in the department: "Do not use the toilet while train is standing in station." There would be national outrage! How dare the Europeans impose this filthy habit upon us! Straight on to the rails — why, it's unspeakable.

Revolution would have arrived before crickets could be imposed on our schools

The next affront would come from the Maastricht social chapter, forcing British employers to permit workers

"Italian-style tea breaks". The CBI, the IOD and the Tory cabinet would fight to the last ditch if attempts to undermine our industrial competitiveness.

And now comes a new assault, this time to building regulations. The England of our imagination has never cared for net curtains and is happy for windows to look straight out on to the street. Our hot and cold water plumbing is at equal pressure, mains pressure, permitting mixer taps in basins, and showers that work. And we have been brought up to believe that, to clean ourselves properly after toilet, a bidet is much superior to a haphazard wipe with a bit of paper.

But Brussels brings in new building directives. Windows that face the road are to be frosted or net-curtained. Basins are to have two taps, freezing cold and scalding hot, shower pressures are to be lowered to a trickle and bidets are to be banned to save water. We would be marching in the streets! It would probably be enough to spark the revolution led by Bill Cash.

Were it not, the new Dutch directive, forcing us to leave pubs by ten minutes past eleven, the Danish energy directive, encouraging motorists not to use headlights in built-up areas, and Euro tax concessions promoting the spread of unstable three-wheel Portuguese automobiles would do the trick. The revolution would have arrived before the new Euro-game called *cricket* could be imposed on our schools. This one was thought up in Brussels. Hard though it is to believe, *les crickets* stand around for hours in white trousers while one of their number positioned in front of three upright sticks.

No, it is too ridiculous to contemplate. Only Brussels could have come up with something like that.

Judging by the actions of a great speculator, the world is in for another bout of high inflation

George Soros has been a benefactor to Britain. His successful speculation last September helped to save us from the ruinous further depression which would have followed a successful defence of the government's exchange-rate mechanism policy. Ministers now claim credit for what he forced them to do. I admire the way he has spent his money. Nothing is more important than the economic survival of the former communist countries in Eastern Europe.

As he has explained it, his speculative method is based on the divergence between what people believe to be reality and reality itself. When public perception gets too far away from what is actually happening, the pressure for correction builds up. The speculator aims to take advantage of the correction, which is likely to happen quite suddenly. It sounds easy to do; in practice it is hard to avoid the original public delusions, hard to judge reality and hard to get the timing of the correction right.

Now George Soros has turned his attention to gold. According to an important story by John Cassidy and Ivan Fallon in *The Sunday Times*, he has bought 10 million shares in Newmont Mining from Sir James Goldsmith and Lord Rothschild, at a cost of some \$400 million. Sir James, who describes himself as "a colossal bull of gold", has used the proceeds to buy gold options in the London market.

I am myself a non-executive director of St James's Place Capital, which is Lord Rothschild's investment company, but I see the significance of this transaction — and it is very significant — in terms of the world economy rather than of immediate investment. In the early 1970s, I wrote a book about the gold standard, *The Reigning Error*, which has long been out of print. Any study of the history of the gold standard leaves one with an awed respect for the significance of the metal as a measure of reality.

Take a gold look at shifting reality

The gold standard itself had a remarkable record of price stability. From 1660 to 1913, the purchasing power of an ounce of gold rose by about 10 per cent. In that period Britain went from being a relatively primitive agricultural and trading economy, with a few colonies overseas, to being the first industrial power and the greatest empire in the world. Gold convertibility did have to be suspended during the Napoleonic war; after 1815, the 19th-century gold standard was established at the old price, and the 19th century was a period of price stability.

Since 1971, when President Nixon terminated dollar convertibility into gold under the Bretton Woods agreement, the gold price has fluctuated widely, reaching a peak of more than \$800 an ounce at the height of the second oil-shock inflation of the late 1970s and early 1980s. The greater the public fear of inflation, the more demand there is for gold as a protection against it.

As an investment gold has two great virtues and one great defect. Its virtues are that it is both real and liquid. It is easy to think of real assets — a house, a farm, a ship, a painting. But you cannot immediately convert these assets into cash in order to pay a bill. A real asset is permanent and independent of government good faith, but it may be impossible to obtain a price for it when you need it. Gold is as real as real estate, but you can always cash it, paying a small commission for doing so. There are

other liquid assets — money in all its forms — which are not real. Currency depends on the trustworthiness of governments and central banks. There is no historic instance of a paper currency, not tied to gold, which has not lost value over time. The Emperor Augustus was an honorable man, but you could not now cash his promises to pay; you can still obtain value for his gold bars. The defect of gold is that it does not

since the early 1960s. This debt has not been fully liquidated during the 1990s depression, but has largely been rolled forward, while public deficits have risen, and are rising sharply.

The argument for expecting higher world inflation depends upon expectations about the action of governments. Only governments can inflate their currencies, because they control the money supply. The historical indicators of incipient inflation are large deficits, rising public expenditure, weak governments, the need to stimulate depressed economies and public resistance to taxes. Governments inflate because they feel that they have no choice but to do so.

If one looks at the present world, one sees this sinister pattern. Almost all the governments are weak, many economies are in depression, deficits are high and rising — though not in Japan — and there is intense public resistance to higher taxes. Both the recent British and Australian elections were lost by the parties which promised higher taxes. Eleven of the 12 Maastricht countries have deficits or debts outside the targets of the treaty. In the United States, every democratic victory — Roosevelt, Kennedy, Carter and now Clinton — has resulted in a higher gold price. The Democrats have been the American inflationary party of the 21st century, since their populist candidate William Jennings Bryan, declared that "mankind is crucified upon a cross of gold".

If the United States is to service its \$4 trillion federal debt, which will rise further in the first Clinton term, American short-term interest rates will have to be held below their natural level. This debt, like the American or British debt after 1945, can most easily be repaid in bad money. If the dollar halves in value in the next decade, the United States debt will halve in value as well. But if the dollar halves in value, gold will rise in dollar terms.

Chinese entrepreneurs have recently been heavy buyers of gold, as European central banks have been selling it. China's massive growth is causing increasing inflation and that will encourage further Chinese buying. The Chinese are not going to use the dollar as their reserve currency and the Japanese are determined that the yen should not become a reserve currency. Gold is a natural, if partial, answer to China's needs.

How far will the gold market go? How long will the rise last? Gold cycles tend to be long ones. The free-market gold price started to rise in the early 1960s, and the peak came 20 years later. That peak was more than 20 times the old official price, though it proved itself to be an aberration. If the world economy is alternately deflating under the debt load and inflating as a response to depression, the next inflationary cycle could well run from the mid-1990s to at least the early years after 2000.

Nobody can tell how far inflation will go, or how far the gold price might rise. The history of past cycles, and of different ratios of gold to other economic variables, makes me guess that the next peak may not be reached until around the year 2000 — seven years from now — and could then be somewhere around \$1,500 an ounce, though by then that might be less than 100,000 yen. I do, however, believe that George Soros has, once again, identified an impending shift in world reality.

William Rees-Mogg

yield any income and is therefore expensive to hold.

If George Soros has moved into gold, that must mean that he distrusts the monetary illusion, not just of the dollar, but of world currencies generally. He must expect a recurrence of world inflation. Can that be right, when deflationary forces still seem to be so strong, particularly in the two leading economies of Germany and Japan?

The world deflation we have all been suffering in the early 1990s was caused by the overload of debt in the 1980s and in earlier decades as well. Debt in proportion to national income had gradually been rising in most industrial countries at least

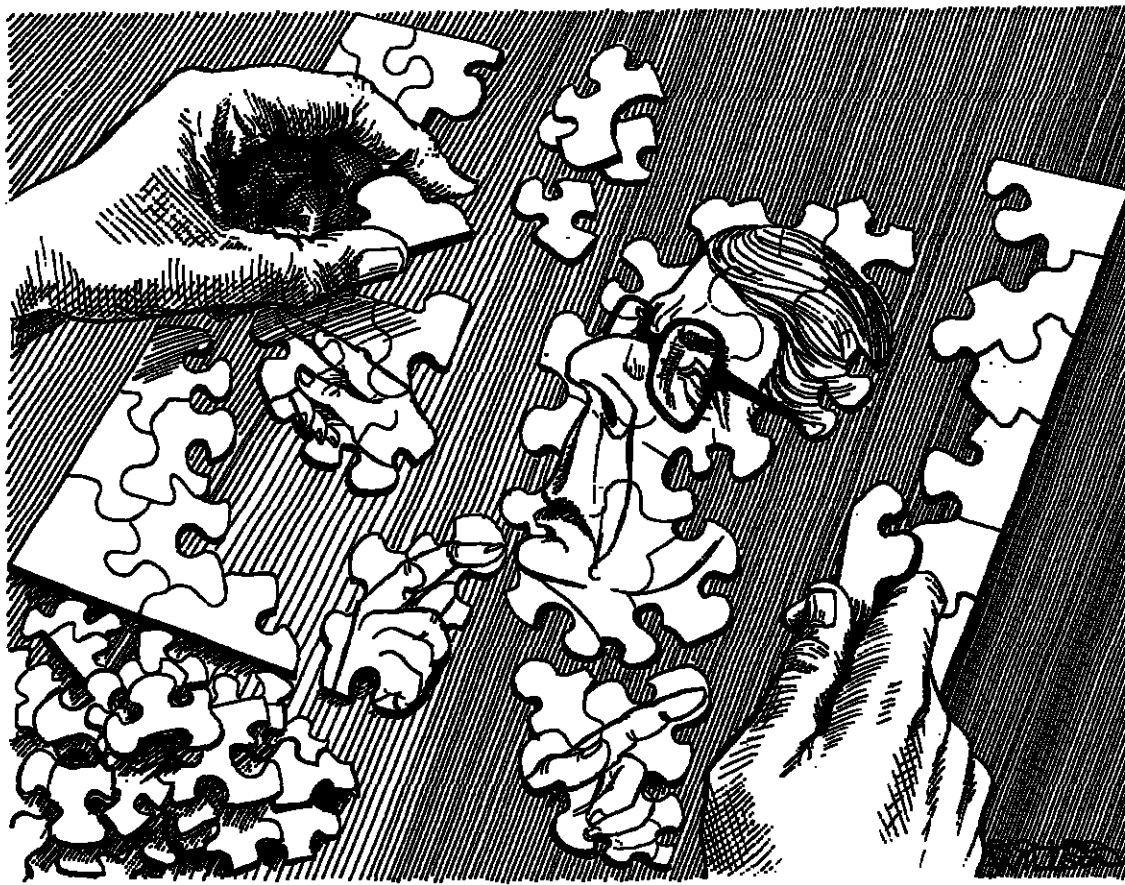
Putting a recovery together

John Major faces his biggest challenge, says Peter Riddell

Imagine you are John Major. The past eight months have been the worst of your political life as you have struggled to keep your party together in the face of a run of setbacks and mishaps. You have faced what you consider possibly the most serious ideological divide in the Tory party since the 1840s. Your personal ratings have slumped to near-record lows and you have been vilified and patronised by normally Tory newspapers. But now, at last, you believe the worst is over. How do you start regaining the political initiative?

Until recently, Mr Major's advisers felt that there was little they could do in the face of media hostility. If Mr Major said Sunday followed Saturday, one paper would produce a survey of Tory backbenchers showing that a third disagreed and another would ask, "Who does he think he is?" The millstones of the recession and the Maastricht debates have made the government look weak and vulnerable. Mr Major has been treated as the head of a minority government.

A change of mood has already begun. The growing evidence of recovery and the end of the committee stage of the Maastricht bill have boosted Tory morale. Mr Major has seemed liberated and more self-confident than for a long time. Paradoxically, the pendulum may swing too far in the short-term. The Tories' troubles are not suddenly all over. Even on Maastricht, there are still traps ahead in report stage, in the Lords and in the courts, particularly over the social chapter. There is also still a long way to go to undo the recession. Unemployment has probably not peaked. Inflation has not disappeared. Tens in schools face disruption. The squeeze on the public



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

sector has not really begun, while the tax rises announced last month do not really come into effect until next year. The disillusionment with the Tories shown in every poll is likely to mean they lose control of several county councils on May 6; and they will be doing very well to hold Newbury then.

None the less, Mr Major now has an opportunity to regain the initiative. More people will listen. To suggest that the government will now be relaunched is perhaps going too far, since the changes will be more in presentation than in the substance of policy or of personnel.

Mr Major is rightly sceptical of dramatic moves such as cabinet reshuffles. He remembers when September invariably meant reshuffle time, and worried ministers for

several months before. He prefers to give cabinet ministers adequate time to get to grips with their departments. So while changes at the middle and junior levels are likely in the summer, following the departure of Tristan Garel-Jones and possibly other ministers of state, the prime minister is so far said to be sceptical about moves in the cabinet.

When politicians talk about presentation, that is often an excuse for ignoring underlying causes. Mr Major and his advisers feel he has been treated unfairly by the press, notably by what they see as a self-regarding group of commentators who have never been reconciled to the departure of Baroness Thatcher. Mr Major

is steeper than he was, but he has been angered by such attacks. So he wants to make a more direct appeal to the public.

His advisers have been fascinated by the approach of Bill Clinton. An article by Sidney Blumenthal in *The New Yorker* on April 5, about how Mr Clinton has spent much more time on interviews with regional and local media and on talk shows than with the White House press corps, has circulated in Downing Street. Not only can the president target his message, but he can appear more in touch with voters' worries, a weakness at present for Mr Major. In a way largely unappreciated at Westminster, Downing Street has already expanded the number of interviews which Mr Major gives to the regional media.

The most likely innovation is not to bypass national political journalists, as in America, but to use them as the questioners in televised press conferences. These would be held perhaps three or four times a year in Downing Street. Mr Major would make some introductory remarks and then have less formal exchanges, intended to show his depth of knowledge in almost a conversational style, with reporters whom he mainly knows. Several questions have yet to be resolved. Which journalists could attend? What time of day would the events be held? Would they, despite the reservations of the broadcasters, be shown live, as in America? Would the opposition have equal time?

The main question, however, is whether Mr Major has anything to say; whether he can articulate a coherent strategy. The government has a heavy legislative programme. A lot has been going on besides Maastricht — in, for example, the health service, education, housing, introducing the council tax. But this activity has been carried on in almost a piecemeal fashion. There has been little sense of overall direction.

A revolution is under way in the public sector, but Mr Major needs to demonstrate what benefits will follow from the citizen's charter, opening out of schools, hospital trusts and so on. Consolidation should not be an option despite recent signs of safety first. Now that the recession is over, the government has to have a programme for recovery. This will require measures to improve competitiveness, training and skills, ground which Labour is already seeking to claim. Mr Major's speeches in the past few days — underlining his pro-EC credentials and about manufacturing — are just a start.

The challenge for Mr Major is to show whether he can be more than a tactician who has handled the transition from the Thatcher era by leading his party to a fourth term. Many of the doubts about him are not just over Europe but about his abilities as a leader. He still has three or four years to show whether there will ever be such a thing as Majorism.

In the red zone

LONDON is to have a Georgian embassy. Edward Shevartnadze's government is the proud owner of a dilapidated Islington building which it snapped up last week for £1.5 million and a promise to refurbish it. The three-story, 20-room house on Clerkenwell Road will also serve as a cultural and business centre, and there will be a restaurant serving Georgian food.

Labour-controlled Islington, the epitome of political correctness, is delighted with its new residents. Particularly as they have cash to burn — one of the Georgians' humbler purchases included three container-loads of clothes from a street market.

Derek Sawyer, the leader of Islington council, who said a fond goodbye to the Georgian ministers of fuel and industry on Saturday, believes the mission will "help rejuvenate the area". He says the Georgians were not put off by the borough's socialist past. "We talked about Lenin being a former resident of the borough — they didn't seem too

bothered by that or by the fact that we used to have a bust of him in the town hall." He dismisses rumours that the council plans to erect a replacement bust to Stalin, Georgia's most famous son. Others feel sorry for the Georgians. Greg Hayman, a Labour councillor, says they will find Islington a rude shock. "The Georgians have just thrown off the yoke of Soviet oppression. The last thing they would want, I would have thought, was to move to Islington, which still has the red flag flying over its town hall."

Rate your guru

SO HOW are you supposed to tell whether the leader of a religious cult is sane or not? With impeccable timing, the London-based Institute for Social Inventions, whose patrons include Anita Roddick, Sir Peter Parker and Fay Weldon, has devised a guru-rating scheme. It could be used, the institute suggests, by pupils in religious education classes

who want to make a discriminating choice of religious leader.

It suggests that before would-be disciples sign up with a cult, they ask 14 questions. These range from "Does the guru refrain from sexual involvement with disciples?" to "Is it easy to leave the guru?"

The institute has produced a table of guru ratings. The late Bhagwan scored 17; the late harshu gets 23. Jesus and other gurus in the great mystic tradition would score in the high 70s. And David Koresh? "We have insufficient information to give him a rating," just as well.

Man who ask 14 questions... no need guru



DIARY

● The Arsenal-supporting Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, is offering his ticket to the FA Cup Final for free. Speaking at last week's Baptist Assembly, he promised to give it to "anyone [who] can prove that I am a member of William Carey's family". Don't bother — Carey is not related to the 19th-century missionary. He wouldn't risk his Arsenal ticket that easily.

Satanic contest

IS THERE no end to the conspiracy theory? Not it appears, where Salman Rushdie is concerned. The Iranian national newspaper *Kayhan* has offered 16 pieces of gold and a pilgrimage to Mecca to anyone who can portray, as a cartoon, "the real conspiracy" behind the author's *Satanic Verses*.

The paper's cultural desk has launched the Satanic Conspiracy Caricature International Competition. It says entries that prove Rushdie's book is no work of fiction, but a cleverly planned attack by the West on Islam, are flooding in.

Lean times

SIR David Lean would have been delighted. Hugh Hudson, who directed the Labour party's election film and *Chariots of Fire*, is to direct a film of *Nostramo*, based on Joseph Conrad's novel, the project on which Lean was working when he died two years ago. Hudson is stepping straight into Lean's shoes, even to the extent of using Lean's producer, Serge Silberman, and his screenwriter, Christopher Hampton. Last week Hudson

returned from location-hunting in Mexico. Shooting will start in November.

In a cash-strapped industry, he is renowned for his relaxed attitude to budget restrictions. He realises this: "It will be a big budget movie but we will contain it — you have to contain these things. You have to bring profit for the bankers."

However, his mind, as ever, is on the "epic scale" of the project. "The story, which is set in a fictitious South American country, has elements of all my films — the romantic, the epic, the visual. I like to think Lean is looking down on me benignly."

● The Queen would not be amused. *Macallan-Glenlivet*, which won a Queen's Award for Export last week, is to be reported to the Advertising Standards Council by Glenlivet for an ad which boasted: "The Macallan's won the Queen's Award for Export again for 1993 — the only malt whisky to be so honoured." *Macallan's* Willy Phillips pleads innocence. "We just meant we were the only malt whisky to have won the award in 1993... no one can argue with that."

Musical influences



Inspiration: Sophia Loren, left, and Catherine Deneuve

IF IT'S not drugs, it's middle-aged actresses. The punk-orientated violinist Nigel Kennedy, after declaring earlier this month that "at some point I'm going to have to consider whether it is my responsibility as a musician to get into heavier drugs", has been talking about two of the "women" in his life — his violins.

"Yeah," he says, in an interview in next month's *BBC Music Magazine*. "It's a very personal relationship with a violin." Comparing his Stradivarius and Guarneri, he judges the "Strad" more "narcissistic" — it makes a beautiful noise but you have to have that noise. The Guarneri is a bit more raw and it goes with you if you want to go creatively. I'd describe Catherine Deneuve as being like a Strad, whereas the young Sophia Loren would be a Guarneri. Sophia Loren's more ready for it. Catherine Deneuve is harder to impress."

حسنة من الاصل



BLAST DAMAGE

Constant vigilance includes political questions too

Another bomb; another death; another bill; another bout of argument about what is to be done; thus this week begins in the manner of many before it. Whenever the IRA mounts such an assault as that at Bishopsgate on Saturday, national leaders say that Britain will not be beaten by the bombers. Such statements are necessary but too easy. They need support: first by resilience in the face of devastation and death, secondly by resistance through greater security and, most of all, by a more constant political vigilance.

In returning to business with determination and efficiency, Londoners are famously at their best. Just over a year ago, after the bombing of the Baltic Exchange and the Commercial Union building, both organisations were back in business with barely any noticeable interruption. This weekend, thousands of City workers have rolled up their sleeves for the even greater task of patching, re-connecting and finding premises for the displaced.

The City will be open for business this morning. At the European Bank, which along with ancient and holy places of worship has been hit for the second time, the annual meeting, which brings together finance ministers from many countries more used to living with such outrages, has gone ahead smoothly. Special insurance arrangements, agreed with the government after commercial reinsurance for City terrorist bomb damage became impossible, will go ahead as intended, even though the law is not yet in place.

That is, of course, a mixed blessing. Taxpayers will directly bear much of the cost of repair, rebuilding and disruption — a result which will please all the enemies of democracy in Northern Ireland who have found some brief satisfaction in London's tight-packed tower-blocks full of silencers and glass. There will be terrorist pleasure too from speculation that their campaign might undermine the international status of the City of London as a place to do business.

Terrorists look closest, however, at the overall impact upon British minds. Official clues were few yesterday. The loudest message from the government party came from its orator-in-exile, David Mellor who

called for a "fundamental policy review" and more resources for police and MI5. At the same time there was talk of how to make traffic access to the biggest financial targets more difficult. More pedestrian precincts and fewer lorries are likely to be the direct result: more police will probably be promised and other palliatives along the lines suggested by Mr Mellor.

Such moves can achieve only so much. The City can be protected but other big economic targets can be found. The balance of risk will eventually turn for the IRA in the City, as it did in military installations; but the bomb-carriers of the IRA, their minds still maddened to obsession like laboratory rats, will go elsewhere.

Any more fundamental review seems far off. The new policy of bringing MI5 into the battle has barely been tried. It is always nice rhetoric to call the terrorists "common criminals and murderers". But it always risks cementing the nonsense that politics plays no part in their actions. Counter-terrorism requires the constant reweighing of difficult options. If, for example, the main case against reintroducing internment-without-trial is bad publicity abroad, then consider the publicity calculus of Bishopsgate. If the main argument is that a new wave of IRA men will come to replace the interned, that much-touted thesis has not been tested recently. If the argument lies in the failures of internment 20 years ago, then consider whether the problem then was in the practice not the principle. It would be reassuring to think that the British government had a reasonably open mind to those questions. It seems rather to have an unreasonably closed one.

What of the broader political response? Nothing is visible just yet. Nothing need yet become visible. Political decisions should not be made in direct response to terrorist actions. But nor should political options be removed from the agenda simply because the battle against terrorism seems to demand it. The arguments against Northern Ireland's simple integration into the United Kingdom have become well known by Whitehall's repetition. But how much are IRA recruits sustained by the policy that London is in principle prepared to stop ruling Belfast one day? We should quietly ask ourselves that question again.

LATE IN THE BOSNIAN DAY

Europe is finally being dragged to a better policy

New United Nations sanctions against Serbia come into force this morning. But few of the EC ministers who bleakly endorsed them in Denmark yesterday can believe that they will shrink or slow the war in Bosnia. Douglas Hurd talked with his traditional vigour about sealing the loopholes in the economic embargo of Serbia and Montenegro. More patrol boats will scout the Danube. The ships in the Adriatic must do better. Border crossings will be manned at night, as well as during the day. The American government has offered an unidentified senior figure to act as a heavy-weight "sanctions supremo". But Mr Hurd did not sound as though he believed that Serbian warlords will take much notice. "I don't believe that anyone can guarantee the success of sanctions," he said.

Niels Helveg Petersen, the Danish foreign minister and chairman of yesterday's meeting, certainly wasn't making wild promises. Sanctions so far had not worked, he admitted. He could produce no evidence that the new ones would affect Serbia's military and diplomatic behaviour. He solemnly predicted that Serbians would not be allowed to attend the next meeting of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation in New York in May. His audience giggled — as well they might.

The EC has been reflecting ruefully on its failure and impotence in the Balkans for several months. Its influence on events is seeping still further away now that the real

arguments turn on the use of military force. "The EC is not a military institution," Mr Hurd told the meeting, treading with due brutality on the dreams of a European army written into the Maastricht treaty. While Mr Hurd was in rural Denmark discussing Serbian bank accounts, the Ministry of Defence was announcing that Britain would come to the aid of the 150 Canadian soldiers in Srebrenica if their lives are threatened. This help could include British air strikes on Serb positions. At last there is movement in the right direction.

With American secretary of state Warren Christopher expected to fly to London and Paris as early as the middle of this week to continue the debate over beginning air strikes or ending arms embargoes, policy is slipping and sliding on both sides of the Atlantic. But decisions are more and more openly being debated and made on the diplomatic triangle between Washington, London and Paris.

Whitehall is resigned to a shift in American policy. British officials are moving crabwise towards accepting that air strikes can be discussed. A row is developing between Britain and France over whether or not new moves require a fresh United Nations resolution. The French want all decisions taken at the UN. Britain fears that whatever the outcome of yesterday's Russian referendum, Russia might veto military action. American officials are ambivalent. It is all desperately late.

HOWZAT AGAIN?

There is nothing wrong with cricket that the Ashes cannot cure

This winter's tour of India and Sri Lanka by England was humiliating in its selection by the old pros' network, disastrous results, whingeing public relations, and even, for martinets, the shadowy shaming habits of the captain. The first-class cricket season has now opened with its customary driving rain and acrimony. Fortunately, April is the traditional renewal month for cricket — and there are still a few days left.

The Test and County Cricket Board has changed the rules this season. In all domestic cricket, a two-run penalty will be imposed for a no-ball, so that it has now become possible to score eight off a no-ball without running. For a professional cricketer to bowl no-balls regularly has become prodigious as well as unprofessional. The Sunday League has been increased from 40 Sunday League for each side, and matches will start at noon instead of after lunch, with white balls and players in coloured county costumes. On Thursday the county championship enters a new, post-Victorian era with four-day matches instead of the three days that the counties have played against each other since the middle of the 19th century, when the new railways made such travels possible. There has been fine tuning of the artificial arithmetic of bonus points. Cricket is one of the longest and most

complex games devised by man. Part of such a sport is continual tinkering with the rules, outrage with the selectors and the unshakable, if improbable, conviction of spectators that they could do better themselves. This has been the underside of cricket since the first exponent of round-arm bowling was no-balled, and the ferocious gambling on the result and bribery of a century ago. In the old ritual there is very little that has been simply "not cricket" at one time or another.

No doubt cricket is going to the dogs, commercialised by obtrusive sponsorship, vulgarised by players and administrators, complicated by the legislators, oversimplified by the one-day game — and with just too much professional cricket being played. But the dogs is where cricket has always been judged to be going by contemporary critics. There is nothing in the regular malaise of English cricket that will not be cured by some of the flashes of brilliance of hand and eye that are about to be on view. Whether in the prime minister's long shadows around the county cricket grounds, or from the coloured pyjamas of the Sunday League, brilliance by anybody will do. It will be still more satisfactory if it is performed by England beating the Australians, the ancient adversary who cheered April by arriving yesterday in search of the Ashes.

Keys to success in world markets

From Mr Paul B. Senior

Sir, I followed the letters (March 26: April 7, 16) regarding "made in Britain", "unfair French competition", etc with great interest. I find it beyond belief that senior business managers and academics alike could express such negative, antiquated and inappropriate views.

The success of this country in Europe (and the world) is entirely dependent upon its business managers' ability to recognise the rapidly changing worldwide market forces, and adapt and deploy their resources accordingly.

This is a global economy and marketplace. Instead of complaining about unfair foreign competition, my peers in industry have to concentrate on making sure their businesses are strong enough to beat the competition.

In a world where I receive information on electronic mail from the USA at 10pm and, without it seeing paper, convert it into an electronic fax for my customers in Singapore to have available before they start their day, winning in business is about being committed, being prepared, and being the best.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL B. SENIOR
(European General Manager),
Welch Allyn Inc.,
The Genesis Centre,
Birmingham, Warrington, Cheshire.
April 20.

From Mr J. Bingham Dore

Sir, Mr Jacques Arnold, MP (letter, April 16), is right that the British economy's well-spring is small businesses. Six years ago the government recognised the need to stimulate their growth by establishing the remarkably successful Enterprise Initiative scheme.

The Marketing Initiative alone has helped 13,000 small businesses to have a marketing strategy and business plan. Most of these small firms found this help very valuable in the survival and development of their businesses.

And yet the Department of Trade and Industry has announced its intention to terminate next year the help provided by the Marketing Initiative, and to put in its place, without the grant which enabled small firms to pay a share of the cost, an experimental scheme of regional "one-stop shops", attached to the local training and enterprise councils (TECs). These are currently run by the Department of Employment and are swallowing very large sums of taxpayers' money. They also lack the kind of controls provided most effectively by the Enterprise Initiative regional contractors.

Is the saving of the cost of the Marketing Initiative support a saving that our well-spring small businesses and the economy can afford? It would have been preferable to increase the grant to focus the Marketing Initiative on helping to get small businesses into Europe.

Yours faithfully,
J. BINGHAM DORE
(Managing Director),
Product Systems Ltd,
105 Onslow Square, SW7.

From the Director-General of the CBI

Sir, The Department of Trade and Industry have, laudably, begun to send officials to work in industry ("Mandarins get their hands dirty", report, April 23). But the department's comment on the scheme was revealing. "They will work on the shopfloor and get very grubby", said a spokesman.

Most shopfloors are not at all "grubby" these days. Only in Whitehall minds are factories still synonymous with grime. It is sad that the DTI should have chosen to reinforce the worst stereotype of manufacturing, when I presume its objective was quite different.

I have, incidentally, seen some very grubby offices in the DTI, and many shiny suits, too. But industrialists are too polite to say so.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD DAVIES,
Director-General,
Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1.
April 23.

Business letters, page 38

Missed the bus

From Mr Mike Hollingsworth

Sir, I was interested to see a photograph (April 21) whose headline proclaimed that a "privatised London bus route cuts its ties with a red past". Given the parlous state of the UK bus industry, it is a pity that the route is not also cutting its ties with buses which, as the photograph showed, were first registered in 1966.

If public transport is to play its part in improving the environment, curbing global warming and reducing congestion, passengers need the best and most up-to-date buses, not those with 27-year-old technology.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE HOLLINGSWORTH
(Chief Economist),
The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Ltd,
Forbes House, Halkin Street, SW1.
April 27.

Protests against DPP's thoughts on speedier justice

From the Legal Officer of Liberty

Sir, The right to trial by one's peers provides an essential protection against not only oppressive prosecutions but also, on occasions, unjust laws. It enables ordinary people (as opposed to lawyers and those appointed by the state) to have a crucial say in the criminal justice system.

The case made out by the Director of Public Prosecutions (interview, reported April 21) to take away this right is based on false premises. The most recent research by the Criminal Justice Consultative Council shows that over 60 per cent of cases sent to the Crown court were sent there not because the defendant elected trial by jury but because the magistrates declined to hear the case. Many such cases will result in guilty pleas.

Although magistrates may decline jurisdiction in cases where they believe that they have insufficient sentencing powers, the CJCC research shows that in the majority of instances these powers would in fact have been sufficient. Ironically, one of the most important factors that influence magistrates when making these decisions are the views of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The DPP also claims in her interview with your legal correspondent that the vast majority of defendants who seek a jury trial subsequently plead guilty. Two of the major reasons given by defendants for such changes of plea are the failure of the CPS to serve all of the evidence at the earliest stage and late amendments by the CPS of charges which may have been excessive when first laid, with the subsequent plea bargaining.

The DPP should reconsider her proposals. The suspect's rights should not be eroded and the right to choose the venue for trial should not be given to the prosecution.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM
Legal Officer, Liberty
(National Council for Civil Liberties),
21 Tabard Street, SE1.
April 21.

From Sir David Napley

Sir, I find it as incomprehensible as it is illogical to complain about the amount of time and money wasted each year by abortive trials, whilst in the same breath arguing for the abolition of committal proceedings on the ground that "they serve no useful purpose".

That may be the view of the Director of Public Prosecutions, as reported (April 21 and 22), but my experience over a very long period of time convinces me that properly conducted committal proceedings play a vital part in the administration of justice.

For example, a prosecution recently launched against solicitors resulted in

the dismissal of three of them from the proceedings at the committal stage, since it became evident that there was not a vestige of truth in the charges preferred. This situation is far from unique and a greater number of time and money-wasting trials would be eliminated if committal proceedings were treated more seriously.

As long ago as 1975 the James Committee estimated, after research, that the costs in the higher courts were three times greater than those in the lower courts: it is probable today that the ratio would be six or more to one. The fault with committal proceedings does not lie in the time or expense involved in the lower and less expensive courts, but in the fact that lay justices, lacking the appropriate legal training are ill-equipped to deal with them. In the hands of competent stipendiary magistrates, they provide a real safeguard against further injustice and hardship.

It is well established that over 50 per cent of contested cases committed for trial are dismissed by the higher court, frequently without the decision of the jury. It would not surprise me, were procedures for automatic committal introduced, if these alarming figures were most significantly increased.

There never has been a time, over my long professional life, when the administration of justice inspired less public confidence than it does today, where confidence is thus diminished, respect for the law itself and its observance is correspondingly reduced. Our endeavours need to be directed to furthering procedures which avoid the risk of injustice rather than increasing it, and concentrating exclusively on time and money will only exacerbate and not improve the present disturbing situation.

Yours truly,
DAVID NAPLEY,
Kingston Napley (solicitors),
107-115 Long Acre, WC2.
April 22.

From Mr L. T. Bridges

Sir, Research I have been involved in with Professor Michael McConville at the University of Warwick (report, March 1) shows that many defendants are left with little choice but to plead guilty, due to the lack of professional care and inefficiencies on the part of their own legal advisers.

These include solicitors who fail to attend or intervene to protect suspects at police stations or to interview witnesses and collect other evidence on their behalf, and defence barristers who frequently see their clients only on the day of trial and then persuade them in the strongest terms to change their plea to guilty.

The new standard legal aid fees for criminal work which the Lord Chancellor plans to introduce will increase the economic pressures on defence

lawyers to cut corners and work toward early case disposal through guilty pleas. Equally, the system of "performance related" funding of magistrates' courts provides these courts with incentives both to retain more cases and deal with them quickly through guilty pleas.

To then give state prosecutors the power to force defendants to be tried summarily will hardly enhance the image of a fair and impartial criminal justice system.

Yours sincerely,
L. T. BRIDGES,
124 Woodward Road, SE22.
April 21.

From Dr Nicholas Braslavsky

Sir, It is hardly surprising that you have given prominent coverage to the possible abolition of a defendant's right to elect trial by jury — a suggestion of the DPP which appears to have found favour with the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. Here lies the gravest illustration of how ancient and fundamental rights are being consistently undermined within the fabric of criminal justice in the interests of financial expediency.

Both the Bar and the Law Society are vehemently opposed to the suggestion. Most practitioners would support a curtailment rather than an enlargement of the powers of the lay magistracy. Why is it that the views of those at the coal face are never properly canvassed until the land slips?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BRASLAVSKY,
40 King Street, Manchester 2.
April 22.

From Mr Rawdon Crozier

Sir, Perhaps the DPP should look closer to home for reforms to the criminal justice system.

Very soon the Crown Prosecution Service, which she heads, will be one of the last great state monopolies. Should she not be putting forward proposals to contract out a proportion of all prosecutions to the private sector, thereby to introduce competition, which, it is well known, would reduce costs and lead to greater efficiency?

An even more radical alternative might be wholesale privatisation of the CPS, whether en bloc or split up by reference to geographical areas or fields of specialisation.

This sale could be used to raise badly needed revenue for the government and allow them to profit from one of the most rapidly growing sectors of the economy.

Yours faithfully,
RAWDON CROZIER,
King's Bench Chambers,
155 North Hill, Plymouth, Devon.
April 22.

Buffaloes might fly

From Ms M. Eileen Magnello

Sir, As an American who has lived in Britain since 1984 and has watched with interest the introduction of American foods (such as Creole and Cajun dishes, blueberry muffins, chocolate-chip cookies and American-style pizzas that have improved enormously since my arrival), I am somewhat amused by a dish that the English have referred to as "buffalo wings" (Weekend, April 17).

It makes me wonder whether the English are of the impression that Americans think buffaloes grow wings, or do they realise that their abbreviated version of this American dish refers to Buffalo-style barbecued chicken wings — said to have originated in Buffalo, New York, in the mid-1970s, when a couple of restaurants began to sell a spicy tomato-based barbecue sauce grilled on chicken wings?

Although I am also pleased to be able to get Mexican food in Britain, I don't think Mexicans would take the view that *chimichanga*, *fajitas* and *quesadillas* are "essentially American", unless you meant essentially North American.

Yours faithfully,
M. EILEEN MAGNELLO,
39 Southdale Road, Oxford.

Home economics

From Mr Denis E. Filer, FENG

Sir, The letter from Mrs Audrey Jones and others on home economics and the design and technology curriculum (April 16) gives food for thought. Home economics in all its aspects — food, nutrition, meal-planning — should be a part of the national curriculum. Its relevance to home-making, child care and the shared responsibilities of men and women goes unchallenged.

But squeezing home economics into school technology just to give it a home is unacceptable. Home economics deserves its own place and own identity in the school curriculum to give young people the necessary skills and knowledge.

Home economics and food technology do not mix. Food technology, as exemplified by food-processing, is entirely different and could be housed within technology, provided, of course, that food is regarded as a material and that the emphasis is on its physical rather than its nutritional properties.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS E. FILER,
Director General,
The Engineering Council,
10 Maltravers Street, WC2.
April 16.

Stonehenge in sight

From Mr Richard Paine

Sir, I deplore the proposed Stonehenge bypass (Disary, April 14). For 30 years, on my way to Devon from London by car, the high point of the journey has always been the wonderful view of Stonehenge from the A303. Just widening the A303 would be more economical, would retain the views of Stonehenge for passing motorists and would not run through ancient burial grounds and natural, unspoiled meadows.

If a bypass were necessary it should run through Larkhill, where the military buildings have already destroyed the backdrop to Stonehenge and where it would do far less damage to the natural environment.

Yours faithfully,
R. PAINE,
Flat 67, 105 Hallam Street, W1.

Smokers 'sniffed out'

From Mr A. D. C. Turner

Sir, Your report of the uniformed guard hired to sniff out smokers in the grounds surrounding Southampton's General Hospital (News in Brief, April 23, earlier editions) demonstrates just how far we have come in terms of persecuting people who happen to enjoy a perfectly lawful pursuit which, in the outdoors in particular, could scarcely be accused of affecting anyone.

As an example of Gestapo mentality, this mean little piece of bureaucracy is hard to top. I suspect that most non-smokers, and even a few anti-smokers also, would regard it as just as ludicrous as we do.

Yours faithfully,
A. D. C. TURNER,
Tobacco Advisory Council,
Glen House, Stag Place, SW1.

Attali's folly

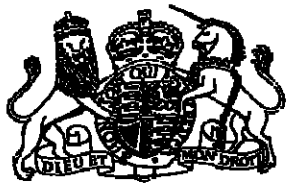
From Mr William Kingston

Sir, I seem to remember that one of Parkinson's later laws is to the effect that "no organisation moves into the palatial offices which its management thinks are its due until it is already in decline".

I have never known this to be falsified, and I wonder how it relates to an organisation which moves into such accommodation before it has even got going.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM KINGSTON,
49 Sandymount Avenue, Dublin 4.
April 23.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 24: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, the Burma Star Association, this evening attended the 100th anniversary of the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 24: The Princess Royal, President, National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, this morning attended the Annual General Meeting, the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire (Mr Simon Townend), a Royal Highness, President, the Children in Need Appeal, and was received by Mr Roger Dickens (Deputy Lieutenant of West Midlands).

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 24: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Welsh National Opera, this evening attended the performance of *La Fanciulla del Teatr* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 24: The Duchess of Kent, Honorary Colonel, the Yorkshire Volunteers, this evening attended a Regimental Dinner, Viny Barracks, North Yorkshire, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Wootley Bt).

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 25: The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General Royal Marines, left Heathrow Airport, London, this morning for Ostend, His Royal Highness attending the 50th anniversary of the raid on the Mole at Zeebrugge, Belgium.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon from Ostend.

Major Ian Grant RM was in attendance.

By command of The Queen, Sir Ashley Pounsonby Bt (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire) was present at Royal Air Force Brize Norton this morning upon the departure of the King and Queen of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and their family to their Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at the Children's Variety Performance held at the Theatre Royal, Tottenham Court Road.

The Countess Alexander of Tunis was in attendance.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, was represented by Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott at a service of thanksgiving for the Duke of the Dowager Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry which was held at the Church of St Mary

the Virgin, Wexley, Kent, this afternoon.

The Duchess of Gloucester was present today at a Conference given by the Association of Teachers of Singing at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Barbican, London EC2.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE, ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 25: The Duke of Kent, President, the Scout Association, this afternoon took the salute at the Queen's Scout Parade and attended the National Scout Service of Remembrance at Windsor Castle, Windsor, Berkshire.

The Duke of Kent, Honorary Colonel, this morning took the salute at the Disbandment Parade of the Yorkshire Volunteers, Somme Barracks, Home Road, Caterick, North Yorkshire, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Wootley Bt).

Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, as Visitor and accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit Wellington College, Crowthorne, at 10.30 to open the new Hopetoun House. She will be welcomed by the Duke of Kent, Honorary Colonel, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Trustee of St George's House, Windsor, will attend a council meeting at St George's House, Windsor, at 2.50.

The Duke of York will attend the Sea Cadets' dinner at Guildhall at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will visit the bureau at Devonport, Plymouth, at 10.05; as President of the Save the Children Fund, she will visit the shop at 64 Fore Street, Totnes, at 11.05; as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, she will open the Teignbridge District Bureau, 5 Bank Street, Newton Abbott, at 11.55; and, as Patron of SENSE, the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association, she will visit the Royal West of England School for the Deaf, Topham Road, Exeter, at 12.45.

Later the Princess will open the newly refurbished and extended Exeter Infirmary Hospital at 2.20; as President of Save the Children Fund, she will visit the shop at Penryn House, Church Street, Sidmouth, at 3.20; and she will visit Sidmouth Victoria Cottage Hospital at 3.55.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Prince Edward, Chairman, the International Council of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, left Heathrow Airport, London, for Mauritius this afternoon.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at the Children's Variety Performance held at the Theatre Royal, Tottenham Court Road.

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Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, was represented by Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott at a service of thanksgiving for the Duke of the Dowager Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry which was held at the Church of St Mary

Aiglon College, Switzerland

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4-6 An Open Morning takes place on June 5 and John Rutter's *Piper of Hamelin* will be performed from June 10-12. The Choral Society sing Haydn's *Nelson Mass* on June 20, at Down House. Bishop Francis Walmesley will celebrate the consecration of the confirmation on July 2. The Douai Society Dinner will be held on July 10. Bishop Crispian Hollis will open the completed Abbey Church on July 9. The School celebrates its 90th Anniversary at Woolhampton in 1993-94.

Cobham Hall

The Summer Term begins today. Lara Weldon is the new Guardian. Elders' Day is on Saturday, May 22. Festival Day and the Unicorn Dance are on Saturday, July 3. Term ends on Sunday, July 4.

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50th anniversary of the Downside air crash

To commemorate the deaths of the nine boys and the airman killed in the accident at Downside on May 15, 1943, there is to be a con-celebrated Mass at noon on Saturday, May 15, in the Abbey Church, followed by a buffet luncheon and the laying of a wreath at the pavilion. Any who wish to con-celebrate and/or have luncheon should write to the Prior at Downside.

Colonel Sir Henry Abel Smith

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Colonel Sir Henry Abel Smith on Wednesday, April 28, at noon in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks.

SPANNA

Princess Zein Al-Hussein of Jordan opened a veterinary clinic in the Jordan Valley, jointly funded by SPANA (The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad) and the European Commission. Lord Newall, President of SPANA, was host. The Jordanian Minister of Agriculture, the British Ambassador and representatives of the EC and the Canadian Embassy were present.

Service dinner

Yorkshire Volunteers

The Duchess of Kent, Honorary Colonel of the Yorkshire Volunteers, attended at the annual Regimental dinner held on Saturday at Catterick. Colonel R.J. Elliott presided. Among those present were General Sir Peter Inge, Major-General A G Kennedy, Major-General I H A Beckett and Major-General A B Crowfoot.

Dinner

Garrick Club

The Lord Chief Justice was the guest of honour at the annual members dinner of the Garrick Club held last night at the club. Mr Nunc Wilcox presided and Lord Woolf also spoke.

Appointments

Floris Maljers to be a governor of the European Policy Forum; Sir Ronald Halstead, Nicholas Colchester and Jonathan Rickford join the council.

Briggs, D. Clark, W. Clark, M. Davis, H. Goudale, W. Lee, N. McCullum, H. Mervin, D. Mervin, M. Miller, A. Nield, M. Nield, C. Russell-Clark, S. Spiller, D. Thorne

Naval College Entry

Supply and Secretariat

Direct College Entry

Supply and Secretariat

Direct College Entry

Supply and Secretariat

Direct College Entry

Forthcoming marriages

Captain P.J. Armstrong, REME, and Miss C.S. Le Queue

The engagement is announced between Captain Paul Armstrong, The Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, son of Mr T.W. Armstrong and the late Mrs Armstrong, of Darlington, Co Durham, and Claire, eldest daughter of Brigadier and Mrs J.E. Le Queue, of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Mr R.S. Ball and Miss J.E. Sherriff

The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Mr and Mrs J.S. Ball, of Leicester, and Janet, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Sherriff, of Colinton, Edinburgh.

Mr C.A.H. Barker and Miss H.D. Hay

The engagement is announced between Hugo, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H



BOOKS 31

Marilyn: would alternative therapy have saved her?



EDUCATION 32-35

Boarding schools — how do they drum up business?



BUSINESS 36-40

Bombed but unbowed, the City gets back to work

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THE TIMES

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MONDAY APRIL 26 1993

Australians bristle with confidence for Ashes tour

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIAN cricketers, deliberate in their larkish perversity, used to dress down to contrast with what they regarded as the stuffy correct English. Not any more. With the English game still preoccupied with the sartorial failings of its players on tour, the 1993 Australians swanked into London yesterday dressed in olive green suits of a style more commonly seen in the City, slimline mobile phones protruding from the breast pocket.

The team sponsor, an all-Australian brewery, did its best to redress the balance by dragging in a surfboard for the group pictures but it lost its impact amid such finery. This was thoroughly modern.

upmarket Australia, *Sylvania Waters* displacing *Neighbours*.

Despite a 22-hour flight on which, in bygone days, the favoured pursuit of Australian teams has been beer-drinking of a sternly competitive nature, every one of the 17 players was sharp of eye and impeccable of appearance. "The boys have been scrubbed up well," the captain, Allan Border, agreed, adding mischievously: "Have we scored the first points then?"

There is not a cricketer around more streetwise than Border and he did not pretend that the shorts and sponsored sunglasses had been left behind. Their day will come. First impressions are important, however, and yesterday, his new brood, six

of them under 25, looked every tailored inch a team. Bob Simpson, the most experienced Test team manager, believes the impression will endure. "You will like the way these fellows approach the tour," he said confidently. "They look good, they are personable young men and they play the game in a positive way."

Simpson and Border have had their differences over the years and are business partners rather than close friends. It is an interesting contrast to the cosy affinity shared by recent England hierarchies but, on the evidence of recent results between the teams, who is to say it has not worked better? Although Australian teams have not travelled well of late, this one will start warm favourites for the six-Test series. "Expectations at home are high," Border said, "because our press has been full of England's woes. But I never take past situations into account when it comes to Australia-England series."

"This tour is still the ultimate for our guys and the passion and tradition involved means it is different from anything else. England have got some class players who might not have been at their best recently. It doesn't take much to turn that around."

Border knows the script by heart. This is his fourth Ashes tour, his third as captain. Four years ago, he did not expect to return, and although yesterday he was willing to say he would be "very surprised" if he made the trip in 1997, his retirement plans remain fluid. "I get asked every day when I am going to pack up," he said. "To keep everyone quiet I put a date on it and said I would probably finish early next year. But nothing is fixed. If I am playing like a genius in South Africa in a few months' time, I might keep going."

Border, like many others, expects his old Essex teammate, Graham Gooch, to continue as his opposite



Razor sharp: Hughes, left, and Boon display plenty of designer stubble after arriving in London yesterday for the Ashes series. Photograph: Simon Walker

number after the England committee discusses the captaincy on Friday. "We keep in touch. I know he is keen." But he was not so convinced about Ian Botham's prospects of a last hurrah against the Australians. "He generally saves his best for us," he conceded. "But he has got to do something to get picked. He can't always say he performed brilliantly in 1981 — it's 1993 now."

There will be plenty of familiar faces in Border's

side but, of the newcomers, most is expected of Shane Warne's leg-spin and the batting of the tall left-hander, Matthew Hayden, only 21 but already collecting run records with formidable authority in Australian domestic cricket.

Warne, slimmer and smarter than when he first burst into the side 18 months ago, bowled so well on Australia's recent tour of New Zealand that his Test place looks assured, despite his

limited experience of English conditions. "Judging by our own performances this year and by what happened to England in India, I think he could be a good weapon for us," Border said.

Paul Reiffel and Wayne Holdsworth, the seam bowlers, are known as "Pistol" and "Cracker", and while Brendon Julian may be here principally to learn, it would not surprise me if the forthright batting of Michael Slater made its impression.

The tour manager, Des Rundle, was not present four years ago, when Australia won the Test series 4-0, a fact he betrayed yesterday. "Hopefully," he said by way of introduction, "this series will be just as competitive as it was in 1989." English cricket is depending on it being rather more competitive than that.

Leading article, page 17
Pakistan struggle, page 22
Essex win, page 22

TOUR ITINERARY	
April 30: England Arrives XI (Preston)	May 2: Leamington, Durham at Warwick's XI (Leamington); May 3: Middlesex (Leamington); May 5-7: Worcestershire (Worcester); May 6-10: Somerset (Taunton); May 12: Sussex (Hove); May 15: Northamptonshire (Northampton); May 16: first one-day international (Old Trafford); May 21: second one-day international (Edgbaston); May 22: third one-day international (Leamington); May 23-27: Surrey at Yorkshire (The Oval or Headingley) or Northamptonshire or Nottinghamshire; 1 Sunny and Yorkshire in Leamington and Leamington; May 28-31: Leamington (Leamington); June 3-7: first Test match (Old Trafford); June 8-11: Warwickshire at Nottinghamshire (Edgbaston or Trent Bridge); June 12-14: Gloucestershire (Bristol); June 17-21: second Test match (Leamington); June 22-25: Oxford and Cambridge Universities (Oxford); June 26-28: Hampshire (Southampton); July 1-4: first Test match (Trent Bridge); July 5: Minor Counties (Surrey); July 10: Ireland (Dublin, Clontarf); July 13-15: Derbyshire (Derby); July 17-19: Durham (Durham University); July 22-25: fourth Test match (Headingley); July 26-30: Northamptonshire or Leamington (Northampton or Old Trafford); July 31-Aug 2: Glamorgan (Preston); Aug 3-5: first Test match (Edgbaston); Aug 11-15: Kent (Canterbury) (one-day match on August 13); 1 Kent in Newmarket (Canterbury); Aug 18-22: sixth Test match (The Oval)

Gascoigne hopeful of playing at Wembley

PAUL Gascoigne trained with England yesterday and, subject to his not suffering any reaction with his injured knee, will play against Holland in the sides' World Cup qualifying match at Wembley on Wednesday.

Graham Taylor, the England manager, was relieved when a London specialist diagnosed Gascoigne as suffering from nothing worse than a calf strain and irritated his part fully in all the training today and there was no immediate reaction," he said, "so things are looking very good in regards to him." Minor injury concerns over Des Walker and Carlton Palmer also cleared up.

The only player still in doubt is Nigel Winterburn, whose second England appearance is threatened by an ankle ligament injury. Taylor will hope Gascoigne has no reaction to his injury today, but Nigel Clough has been earmarked for his free role just in case.

Terry Yorath, the Wales manager, yesterday found that the four first division players permitted by Fifa to play for their clubs on Saturday, against the wishes of the Football Association of Wales, had come through their matches without injury. They joined the Welsh squad today to prepare for Wednesday's match against the RCS in Ostrova. Scotland leave for Portugal today with 19 players following the withdrawal of two defenders, Tommy Boyd and Alan McLaren.

Newcastle win, page 24
Bergkamp's role, page 25

Prost defies critics in breathtaking style

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN IMOLA

THROUGH a fine drizzle that dulled the Maxons of the tifosi, Alain Prost drove to victory in the San Marino Formula One grand prix yesterday. Sometimes breathtaking, always controlled, his triumph for Williams-Renault was the perfect epitome to the army of critics that has leapt on recent errors to suggest his powers are on the wane.

His move to take the lead on the twelfth lap, when he overtook Ayrton Senna, who was later forced to retire, and his team-mate, Damon Hill, on the outside as they struggled to pass back markers, was straight out of the Brazilian's own dictionary of derring-do. Prost was never headed again and he attacked those who have questioned his ability. "I am never going to complain about faults in my car again because people just say they are excuses," he said. "From now on the team will deal with that. I am just pleased to have relieved some of the pressure because it was hard for me to do my job here this weekend."

Hill spun off, suddenly, slowly, but horribly powerless to act on the 21st lap after he had led for the first 11 laps. His car, which had apparently developed brake problems, thrashed about like a beached whale in the gravel trap as Hill desperately tried to free it, but to no avail.

A marshal had to usher him from the car, leaving Martin Brundle, in his Ligier-Renault, to take the British honours by finishing third. Hill has grown in confidence and stature here but, after establishing an early two-second lead, he stayed out too

long on wet tyres and, after a pit stop, was overtaken by Prost and Senna's McLaren as his dry tyres warmed up.

"Leading the race is worthless if you do not finish," Hill said. "The experience of Prost and Senna took over after a while."

Senna's retirement two-thirds of the way into the race made Prost's 46th grand prix win all the sweeter. The Brazilian had no answer to Prost and the power of the Williams-Renault yesterday and leads the championship by only two points from the Frenchman. Senna's position also appears to have been weakened by Michael Schumacher's second place for Benetton, a result that should restore Ford's faith in their flag ship team. Negotiations between Benetton and McLaren over the latter's access to the manufacturer's most powerful engine have reached stalemate and Senna's participation in the Spanish grand prix a fortnight hence is in doubt. "I still do not know about Spain," Senna said.

Senna's troubles, of course, are Prost's opportunity. After

his recent travails in wet races, his heart must have sunk when the day dawned dull and it began to rain two hours before the race. But after another shaky start, when he was overtaken by both Hill and Senna at the first bend, he steadied himself as a host of other twitching, sliding cars spun all around him on the greasy surface.

The rain abated and as the track dried and Hill pulled away in front, the duel with Senna began. Prost probed and pressed, finally forcing his way past as the pair accelerated out of the Tosa bend on the seventh lap.

Brundle capitalised on a series of retirements and rode his luck to complete a highly creditable performance on the podium. "I came to Ligier having won points in 11 of the last 12 races," he said. "Then I come here and start running into walls all the time."

Johnny Herbert seemed as though he might complete three successive fourth places but his hopes were dashed two laps from the end when his car developed engine trouble and he was forced to retire.

RESULTS: 1, A Prost (Fr), Williams-Renault, 1hr 30min 20.415sec; 2, M Schumacher (Ger), Benetton-Ford, 39.410sec behind; 3, M Brundle (GB), Ligier-Renault, 1 lap behind; 4, J J Lehto (Fin), Sauber, 2 laps behind; 5, P Alboreto (It), Larrousse-Lamborghini, 2 laps behind; 6, F Barbezat (It), Minardi-Ford, 2 laps behind; 7, I Badoer (It), Lola BMS F1, 2 laps behind; 8, J Herbert (GB), Lotus Ford, 4 laps behind; 9, A Suzuki (Japan), Footwork Mugen-Honda, 7 laps behind.

Taylor rides luck in war of nerves

By PHIL YATES

DENNIS Taylor earned a quarter-final place in the Embassy world snooker championship at the expense of his old adversary, Terry Griffiths, by surviving an engrossing 11-frame session in Sheffield early yesterday.

At 1.40am Taylor fluked the decisive blue to beat Griffiths 13-11. It was a victory that took 13 hours 19 minutes of painstaking and dramatic snooker to complete. The early-morning epic also helped to preserve one proud record and brought another to an end.

Regardless of the outcome of his quarter-final against Jimmy White or Doug Mountjoy, Taylor is sure to retain the place in the top 16 next season he has occupied since the ranking system was introduced in 1976. However, it will be the first time since 1983 that Griffiths has not been involved in the last eight of the championship.

When Taylor, the 1985 champion, won the first frame of the evening to lead 10-4, nobody expected the midnight oil to be burned. Griffiths, though, has few peers when it comes to tenacity. The Welshman, 45, ground out the next four frames, reaching 10-8 with a double on the blue in the eighteenth frame.

This momentum was broken by Taylor winning the next frame, which included three controversial "miss" decisions by the referee, Len Ganley, after Griffiths failed to escape from an awkward snooker. Taylor then moved 12-8 ahead with a 64 break.

Griffiths' typical response was to win the following three frames — the 22nd on the break — to trail only 12-11.

Leading 51-42 in the 24th

frame, Taylor laid a snooker on the yellow. Griffiths made contact but left a simple pot to the middle.

It was a relieved Taylor who sank yellow, green and brown before seeing the all-important blue wriggle in the jaws of one balky pocket and across the bottom cushion into the other.

"It was a terrible way to win because Terry had made a great comeback. Every time I gave myself a bit of leeway, he fought more strongly," Taylor said.

Barring an unexpected recovery, Taylor's next opposition will be provided by White, who increased his 5-3 overnight lead against Mountjoy to 11-5 by winning six of the eight frames in yesterday's second session.

Playing with the relaxed air of a man convinced that defeat was unthinkable, White compiled breaks of 49, 60, and 44.

Neil Foulds, the world No. 5, who has endured a sequence of miserable results since capturing the Regal Scottish Masters title last September, also placed himself in a strong position in his second-round match with Martin Clark by establishing a 6-2 lead.

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Pakistan struggle despite Basit's brave resistance

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

NOT even an innings of astonishing maturity by Basit Ali could save Pakistan from following on, and heading towards almost certain defeat, in the second Test match, sponsored by Cable and Wireless, here yesterday.

In only his third Test innings, Basit made an unbeaten 92, but Pakistan still fell 34 short of the 255 they needed to make West Indies bat again. By mid-afternoon, they were following on with half the match to go.

More or less unheard of outside Pakistan six weeks ago, Basit, 22, was now taunting the West Indians by the ease with which he played them. There is a strong element of effrontery in him or perhaps it is disdain; but it is natural. In 174 balls and 228 minutes, he gave no chances.

It may give some idea of the gulf that has existed in the match between the sides to say that, generally speaking, Pakistan have not thrown their wickets away and have not flinched. But batting against the West Indies attack and against Pakistan's attack have been two entirely different things. Had they gone in first against their own bowling, I

would not have backed West Indies to score more than 300, nor Pakistan, batting second, against their bowling, to score fewer than 350.

Wasim Akram's figures belied how well he bowled (except for his 17 no-balls) and Waqar's how indifferently he did so. Every time Wasim turned to Waqar for help, West Indian runs came even faster. Except when he was picking up a couple of cheap wickets at the end of the West Indies innings, Waqar was going for six an over. He has got no rhythm and he is not moving the ball, though, to be fair, it was off him that wicketkeeper Moin dropped the two howlers in the fourth over of the match.

All Wasim had left, once Waqar had failed to fire, were the two colts, Nazir and Azeem-Ul-Rehman, playing in their first and third Tests, and you need only to compare them with Bishop and Walsh to know why Pakistan are in trouble. It is not quite a perfect pitch of the old Bridgetown variety, and, as they invariably do when Tests are played here, one or other of the West Indian giants keeps producing something special. They give so much less away, too, than whoever their opponents are.

In his 25.5 overs on Friday and Saturday, Waqar was fit for 20 fours, virtually all of them out of the middle of the bat. Pakistan's batsmen have found comparatively little to hit, apart from Basit, to whom even the short half-volley carries an invitation.

In their first innings, Ramiz defended stoutly for nearly three hours before being brilliantly caught in the gully; Sohail was out to a lovely piece of bowling, and Mujtaba was the recipient of a horrid lifter.

In keeping Basit company for the first 20 overs yesterday and adding 80 with him for the sixth wicket, Wasim Akram enjoyed a charmed life. However, there was no mistaking his determination, and the skill and confidence with which his young partner played can only have reassured him.

When Wasim hooked Walsh for six and Richardson was moved to bring on Hooper in his place it seemed that the pressure on Pakistan was easing. Instead, the last ball of Hooper's second over was propped gently to forward short leg by Wasim, and in the next over Walsh, having changed ends, had both Moin and Waqar caught at the wicket.

After that, it was Basit against the strongest attack in the game, conducting the whole operation as though there was nothing to it, until Nazir hit a full toss to silly mid-off.

Sir Richard Hadlee, despite a two-year lay-off after heart by-pass surgery, showed competitive form on Saturday on his return to playing in England. Hadlee, who took a record 431 Test wickets, was persuaded out of retirement by Leyland, to fill in for Gordon Greenidge for one match, and he bowled tightly in the drawn Northern League fixture against Lancashire. He took two wickets for 11 runs in 12 overs, four of which were maidens.



Smart work: Lewis, of Essex, catches Cork at silly point as Garmham leaps with joy at Chelmsford yesterday

Such blooms in healthy Essex nursery

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

CHELMSFORD (final day of four: Essex beat England A by nine wickets)

THE flowers that bloom in the spring tra-la. However much followers of cricket may lament our shortcomings at Test level, there is no lack of enthusiasm in Essex. The county champions could not have begun the season more brightly, trouncing the country's most highly regarded young players by nine wickets as Peter Such returned the best match figures of his career.

So who will finish second? After all, if Essex could retain the championship in a season when Neil Foster took only 23 wickets, as they did last year, a third successive title is surely within their compass.

Much depends on powers of regeneration that have served them so well in the 13 seasons since Keith Fletcher led them to that epochal first championship. Fletcher is no longer around to lend a guid-

ing hand to young men who, though undoubtedly talented, are not proven.

Whether they are successful or not, nobody will begrudge time spent in Chelmsford. The purpose of the cricket played here puts other teams to shame and it is precisely this quality which has enabled Such to blossom at the comparatively mature age of 28.

Six second-innings wickets, allied to the five he took earlier, gave the off spinner 11 for 124, the first time he has taken ten or more in a match. It was the ideal palliative for the "loss" of the 11 wickets he imagined were first-class in England A's victory over the Australian Cricket Academy at Melbourne in February.

He will have to keep it up, of course, but when the selectors gather a month from now to pick the England team for the first Test match at Old Trafford, it is reasonable to assume that Such will feature in their deliberations. Who could have thought that even six months ago?

After Lathwell had impressed with his fluent 84 on Saturday afternoon, only Graham Lloyd kept Essex waiting for long when yesterday's play began at two o'clock. He is nothing if impetuous and might easily have been out three times in taking his overnight 64 to five short of his second hundred of the week. Charging Pringle once too often he slayed to extra cover.

Salisbury and Taylor resisted to make 34 for the last wicket before Childs, who had replaced Such at the River End straightened one to confound the strokeless Taylor. Essex, left to make 75, got them with 21 overs to spare, as the 17 other counties will note with some trepidation.

SCOREBOARD

ESSEX: First Innings 384 (N Hussain 118, G A Garmham 88)	Second Innings 329 (P Such 118, G A Garmham 88)
*G A Garmham 88	*P Such 118
J P Stephenson c Coddick b Salisbury 29	J B Lewis not out 5
J B Lewis not out 5	J B Lewis not out 5
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50
BOWLING: Coddick 6-1-19-0; Taylor 7-4-41-0; Salisbury 20-3-104-0; Garmham 15-4-118-0	BOWLING: Coddick 6-1-19-0; Taylor 7-4-41-0; Salisbury 20-3-104-0; Garmham 15-4-118-0

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-41, 3-72, 4-88, 5-106, 6-110, 7-113, 8-116, 9-143	
BOWLING: Pringle 15-4-117-0, foot 19-2-56; 2, Toppley 6-1-23-0, Childs 16-3-47, 3-2-23-2	
M N Lathwell c Childs b Stephenson	84
M A Rastbury b Such	40
M D Moin bow b Such	40
G D Lloyd c Knight b Pringle	96
J P Conway b Such	10
D C Russell b Such	10
G C Lewis b Such	15
A R Coddick b Such	0
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Stuttgart
place
offered to
Martin

Lewis sees little to disturb him in countdown to all-British world showdown in September

Bruno fails to make title hopes ring true

By Sri Kumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

IF THERE was any danger of Lennox Lewis losing sleep over the defence of his World Boxing Council heavyweight title against Frank Bruno in September, the fears were laid to rest on Saturday at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Bruno's performance against Carl "The Truth" Williams was disappointing. Even though he finished his bout by flooring the American in the tenth and last round, there was nothing in the contest to suggest Bruno's capabilities could seriously threaten Britain's world champion or be any great asset to the promoters of the September bout, more a show than a showdown.

However, Bruno's popularity can still help the promoters make the event the biggest in British boxing history. Bruno said yesterday: "I'm not one to shout off 'I'm going to do this or that' but I'm going to stop him, knock him out. We're going to get together a wicked cocktail even if it takes six months." Bruno's trainer, George Francis, said: "I've seen all Lewis's tapes and I've seen a couple of flaws we're going to work on and I think Frank will knock him out. I mean it."

But Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, struggled to start the bandwagon rolling with something good to say about Bruno's performance. "I thought Frank put up a great effort," Maloney said. "Fought with a lot of heart and landed some great right hands." And then added: "Is my nose growing? Lennox will take him out in two rounds." You could not blame Maloney for his confidence because Bruno never threw, or landed, a significant blow. Even the one that put Williams down was a long, over-reached one that did not exactly leave Williams paralysed on the floor. The American got up at nine and was prepared to continue but was prevented from doing so by Dave Parris, the referee. In fact, the best blows of the contest came from Williams — in the third round. He put together a combination of four punches that had Bruno backing off in confusion.

From the start, the bout left me with the strange feeling of not watching a boxing match at all. Bruno and Williams did not even seem to be in a contest but simply to be going through motions that had no

relevance to what the other man was doing.

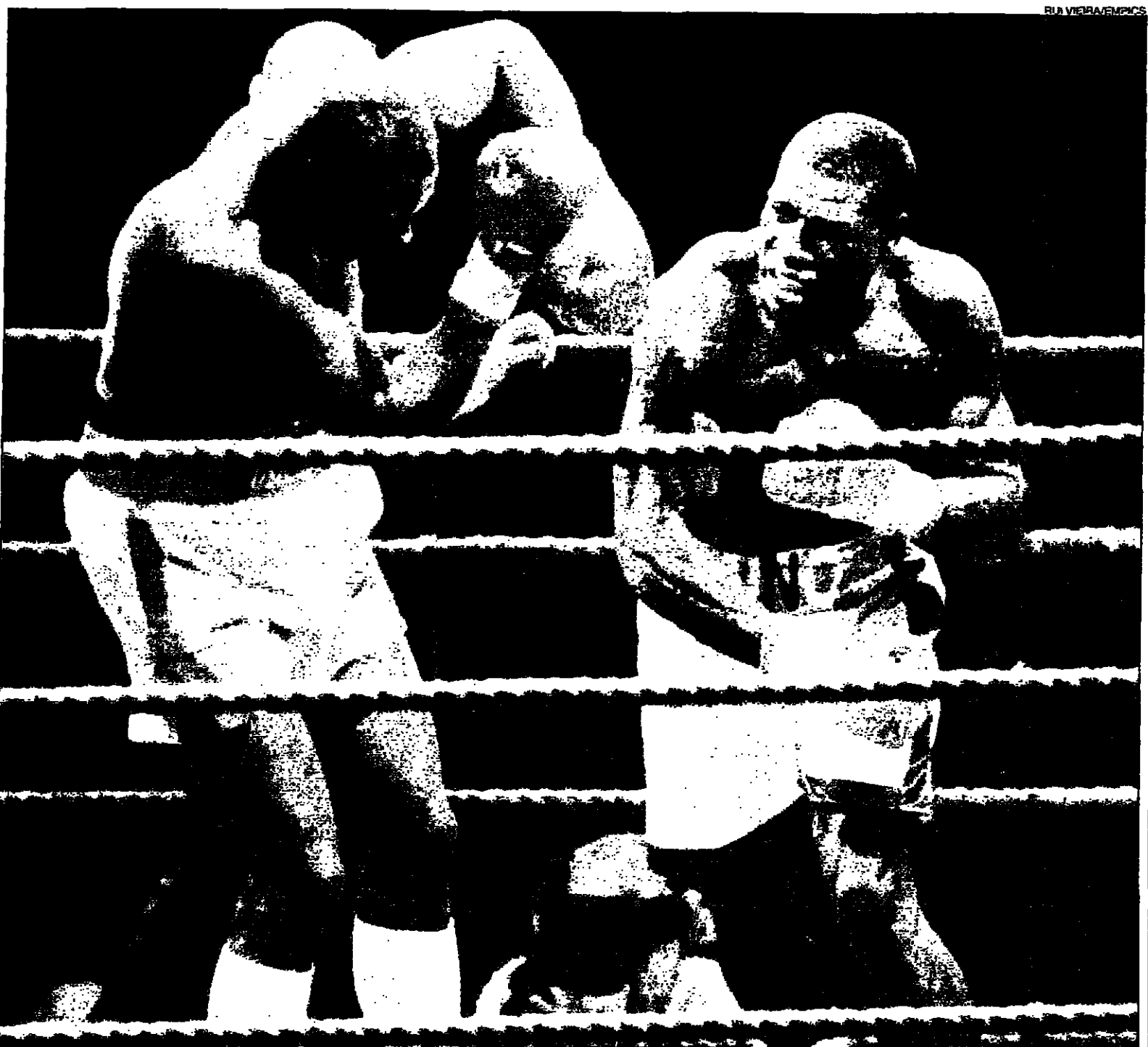
Williams looked like a sparing partner, doing all the right things to keep his employer on his toes. When he cut Bruno's left eye in the third round, he made no attempt to capitalise on the injury. Williams did not look like a man who lost a disputed decision to Larry Holmes. He never put two good punches together again. His sloppy boxing made him look like a novice.

It has been suggested that Williams, despite his low weight of 15st 8lb against Bruno's 16st 7½lb, was not fit enough to keep putting blows together. He had only to pile it on in the fourth round to have Bruno in trouble but instead seemed rather to back away from further embarrassing the home boy.

Yet, in spite of Williams's inability to get going, Bruno was unable to have him in trouble for much of the bout. If it was a learning fight, it had no relevance to the kind of opposition Bruno is likely to face from Lewis. Bruno was either too far away to land solid jabs with any regularity, or too close to find leverage. He did all the pressing but when he got to Williams he either got himself tied up in knots or did his impression of Woody Woodpecker by rapping away on top of Williams's head, which had only the merit of being seasonal as woodpeckers are going about knocking on wood all over the country at this time of year.

Williams went home with £100,000, more than Bruno's last three opponents received together. Bruno and Mickey Duff, the promoter, were satisfied with their night's work, though I suspect Duff may have been more impressed by the box-office receipts, from a crowd of 8,500 loved every moment, every lunge and punch by their hero. They will be there in their thousands to cheer him on against Lewis.

The bout is unlikely to go to Wembley as Maloney has decided on a new date: September 18, which may not be available at the London venue. Old Trafford, Maine Road and Cardiff Arms Park are being considered. "If it is to go to Wembley, so be it," Maloney said, "but this fight won't draw 80,000, more likely 40,000 to 50,000. This is a fight that belongs to Britain, not London."



Final blow: Williams reels as Bruno lands the punch that finished their contest in the tenth round at the NEC in Birmingham

Prince Charming in new pantomime role

David Miller ponders the inadequacies that Britain's most loved boxer cannot disguise even against a carefully selected opponent

Throughout the fight — using that term loosely — Williams mockingly shook his head at his opponent, after the latest flurry of ineffectual blows, as much as to say: "Man, you ain't challengin' nothin'."

Big Frank would blink, flex those massive barn door shoulders and come lumbering forward again. It rarely came close to being a convincing performance. By the sixth round, even the large and loyal crowd that had paid good money to see the heavyweights had ceased baying "Brooo-noh".

Their hero has met during his artfully managed career only three serious boxers — Witherspoon, Bonecrusher

Smith and Tyson — who all beat him and now it took him a depressingly long time to land the wild and slightly fortunate right swing that finally halted Williams's taunting headshaking.

The lasting impression is that when Duff manages to get Bruno into the ring with Lennox Lewis, the substantial enrichment of all three, it should not take Lewis much longer to complete the business inside the ring than it has done to sign on the line beforehand.

When Bruno ducked between the ropes to greet his supporters, and gave solemn theatrical bows left and right, he really was Dick Whitt-

ington — Uncle Dick — off to seek his fortune in the big city. Williams, clearly overweight at 15st 10½lb and with a bosom that oscillated as he skipped from foot to foot, was sweating profusely before the first bell.

At 16st 7½lb, Bruno looked more a candidate for Mr Universe, with those balloon biceps and the muscles of his torso as sharply defined as an Ordnance Survey map. There, however, the appearance of superiority ended.

Throughout the contest, Williams would often stop Bruno with his left jab, cutting his left eye in the third but failing to exploit this. Bruno, in return, half-closed Williams's left eye, but there was none of the old steel in Bruno's punching that once was there. Williams, wheeling away to the right whenever Bruno launched combination

punches, repeatedly exposed his left jaw but the target remained untouched.

In the sixth, Bruno seemed as if he might be close to ending the fight early, catching his man with a left and right in the second minute. But by the seventh, Williams had come back, was forcing Bruno to hold and was still mocking him in the eighth, never mind that Bruno sent him momentarily staggering with a less than severe left swing. In the ninth, Williams's jabbing worried Bruno and he even wobbled Prince Charming with an uppercut.

Bruno, knowing his reputation was on the line, came out for the final round swinging wildly and optimistically. One of them landed and nice Frank could return to what, nowadays, he does best — delivering those cosy one-liners. No win? I mean?

Cardiff clinch treble in forceful fashion

Cardiff Devils.....7
Humber-side Seahawks...4

By Norman de Mesquita

CARDIFF Devils completed the grand slam of British ice hockey when they gained a convincing win over Humber-side Seahawks at Wembley yesterday to add the Heineken championship to their premier division and Autumn Cup titles.

The Seahawks were surprise qualifiers for Wembley and had given their all in Saturday's second semi-final, when they beat Nottingham Panthers 5-4, the winner coming in the seventh minute of sudden-death overtime.

Saturday's efforts took so much out of the Seahawks that they had little left for yesterday's final and they seemed to approach it in a defensive manner.

They managed to contain the Devils to a single goal in the first period, scored by the Cardiff man of the match, Doug McEwen. A quick rethink was essential after the first interval, when the Devils added a second goal after 90 seconds, and they were five ahead midway through the session.

Kevin MacNaught, scorer of the overtime winner on Saturday, did pull one back for Humber-side but they were still 5-1 behind at the second break and the game was in danger of dying.

If it were to come back to life, quick goals were needed from Humber-side early in the third period. It was Cardiff, however, who scored twice to lead 7-1 and there was a possibility that the capacity crowd would have little to cheer for the remaining 17 minutes.

Just after the halfway point of the final period, Humber-side at last found a way through Cardiff's well-organised defence, with their giant defenceman, Mike Bishop, completing a smart three-way play with the Shanon Hope, of Cardiff, was serving a penalty.

Twelve seconds later, Dan Dorion narrowed the gap to 7-3 but, although he was to score again with less than two minutes remaining, Cardiff were in control for the rest of the match.

Cardiff's superiority was based mainly on their extra depth and this was highlighted with the goalscoring being shared by six players, whereas the Seahawks seemed to rely far too much on the searing runs of Dorion, who became too predictable and too easily thwarted.

SCORERS: Cardiff Devils: D McEwen (2), S Hope, S Cooper, J Coyle, J Castle, J Ruggles, Humber-side Seahawks: D Dorion (2), K MacNaught, M Bishop.

Bruguera forced to wait by weather

THE men's final of the Monte Carlo Open tennis tournament between Sergi Bruguera and Cedric Pioline was postponed until today after heavy rain yesterday. It will now be a best-of-three-set match, instead of the best of five, and will be played on the centre court in the morning, if it is good weather, or if the weather is bad, in the afternoon on the covered court.

Bruguera, of Spain, has at least had previous experience with rain-delayed finals in Monte Carlo. In 1991, he beat Boris Becker in a match that was carried over until Monday.

Pioline, of France, ranked 29th in the world, made the first important final of his career in beating the top seed, Stefan Edberg, in the semi-finals on Saturday. Bruguera, ranked No 16 and the eleventh seed, beat the champion, Thomas Muster, after saving three match points.

"I hope we will be able to play the singles tomorrow. But knowing the region, I am not sure we will have better weather," Bernard Noat, the tournament director, said. Earlier yesterday, Edberg joined Petr Korda to win the doubles championship against Paul Haarhuis and Mark Koevermans 3-6, 6-2, 7-6.

British Steel takes slender advantage

By Barry Pickthall

RICHARD Tudor and his crew aboard British Steel II re-established a short lead over Commercial Union, skippered by Richard Merrivether, on the final stage of the British Steel Challenge yacht race around the world yesterday.

British Steel's new represents the eighth change of leadership in as many days and, with the ten-strong fleet now fanned out in an arc east of St Helena, the close racing a testament to the determination of the crews to be first back to Southampton.

The one surprise is the relatively poor placing of Nuclear Electric, the overall leader, which dropped to eighth. The skipper, John Chittenden, who is defending an eight-hour lead, suspected the reason for the poor performance and put the gearbox into reverse to clear it yesterday. This exercise brought the boat to a halt and cost the crew three miles on their nearest rivals, an expensive diversion when the racing is so close.

The weed problems, coupled with a shift in the wind that allowed Group 4 Securitas to claw eastwards and close the gap on the leaders yesterday, gave Mike Golding and his crew the opportunity to establish a 37-mile advantage over Chittenden's crew.

That is equivalent to four hours sailing and halves Nuclear Electric's advantage when the fleet left Cape Town eight days ago. Hofbrau Lager, which is third in the overall standings, is not providing quite the same threat. The yacht, skippered by Pete

Goss, is 70 miles to the west of Chittenden's but only six miles closer to the finish.

These relative distances to the finish can be confusing, for British Telecom's satellite tracking system measures the yachts against a pre-set course and any that stray away from it invariably fall down the leaderboard. This may well be the case with Commercial Union, which is now more than 60 miles north of British Steel II but lies 120 miles to the east.

Both yachts, however, have a 50-mile lead over a second group now fighting it out for third place. Vivien Cherry's crew on Coopers & Lybrand, which held this position for much of last week, has been struck by a stomach bug that seems to have taken the edge off their performance. They now face a three-pronged attack from Group 4 Securitas, 260 miles to their west, Heath Insured, 30 miles to port, and Interspray, which was so close yesterday that the two crews must have been in sight of each other.

The fleet is now within 750 miles of Ascension Island, which it should pass on Wednesday. Then tactics will come into play as crews make a course to cross the Equator next weekend where they think the doldrums, the notorious band of calms stretching across the Atlantic, will be at their narrowest.

LEADING POSITIONS at 1400 GMT yesterday, with miles to Southampton: 1, British Steel II (R Tudor), 4,312 miles; 2, Commercial Union (R Merrivether), 4,315; 3, Coopers & Lybrand (V Cherry), 4,344; 4, Group 4 Securitas (M Golding), 4,363; equal 5, Heath Insured (M Brownell) and Interspray (P Jones), 4,372; 7, Hofbrau Lager (P Goss), 4,393; 8, Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden), 4,405; 9, Rhone-Poulenc (P Phillips), 4,415; 10, Pride of Tideside (J MacSweeney), 4,457.

Torrance reigns in Spain

FROM MEL WEBB IN VIC, CATALUNYA

THE Catalan Open paddled its way to a rainswept and soggy abandonment yesterday, but for Sam Torrance it was an unrelieved sunshine as, without hitting a ball on the final day, he took his second golf title in a month.

Torrance, on 201.15 under par, and leading by three strokes overnight after a 67 on Saturday, won £50,000 after the sponsor, Heineken, agreed to pay out full prize money in spite of having its tournament reduced to 54 holes.

Jay Townsend, of the United States, was second, his best European Tour finish, a shot in front of Paul Way and Andrew Sherborne, with Jesper Parnevik, of Sweden, Sam Hornell, of Sweden, and David Curry a further stroke behind.

Torrance also moved into fifth place in the order of merit

and picked up 50,000 Ryder Cup points to carry his total to 145,215, taking him from twentieth to fourteenth in the table as he strives for a seventh tilt at the Americans, at The Belfry. Out of his bed at 6.45 and at the course at 8am, he had to wait for more than six-and-a-half hours for a previous victory as the thunder rumbled, the lightning flashed and the rain and hailstones fell in torrents.

"It's the longest day I've ever had in my life," Torrance said. "I've been pretty much on edge all day — I wouldn't wish it on anybody. I'm just glad it's a happy ending for me."

As Torrance was whiling away the hours playing cribbage with Jamie Spence — and losing £80 — the staff under Mike Stewart, the tournament director, were working feverishly to try to get the

course fit to allow the day's play to go ahead.

Stewart had tried to second-guess the meteorologists, who had forecast rain for the afternoon, by arranging start times that were unprecedentedly early. If things had gone to plan, the leaders would have gone out at 9.25am and been back in the clubhouse by the time the bad weather arrived.

Unfortunately for Stewart, his bluff was called and the rains came six hours early. The moment he arrived at the course he knew it was unplayable, and the best he could do in the end was to get four holes played by the back markers.

It was not just good news for Torrance. When his regular caddy, Malcolm Mason, took two weeks off to go on his honeymoon, Torrance promised him five per cent of his winnings while he was away.

The man who replaced Mason, Billy Foster, picked up the same percentage. As temporary engagements go, it was a good week for Foster, who normally works for another player who is not altogether unknown. His name is Severiano Ballesteros.

CAUSING MAJOR SPORES (GB and Ireland) (last 201): S Torrance, 71, 68, 67, 204; J Townsend (USA), 68, 69, 69, 206; P Way, 65, 73, 66, A Sherborne, 65, 72, 68, 206; D Curry, 69, 73, 64, J Parnevik (Swe), 68, 68, 69, 205; E Darcy, 69, 68, 68, 207; J M O'Sullivan (Ire), 62, 73, 68, G Evans, 68, 69, 70; R Drummond, 68, 70, 71; I Woonham, 68, 67, 71, 205; F Neblett (NZ), 68, 71, 69; D Clarke, 68, 72, 69; J Parris (Sri), 70, 68, 70; M Gales, 67, 70, 71; B Lane, 68, 67, 73; 208; S Tinning (Ire), 67, 70, 72; 210; M Jankovic, 70, 69, 71; C Blooy, 72, 71, 67; D W Besson (SA), 69, 69, 72; F Lindgren (Swe), 69, 69, 72; A Braugh (N), 65, 72, 73; 211; A Giffen (Sri), 69, 72, 70; G J Brand, 70, 72, 69; S Bowman (USA), 70, 72, 68; M A Martin (Sri), 69, 68, 71; 214; J Johnson (Sri), 71, 69, 71; J Robinson, 68, 70, 72; A Hogg, 68, 71, 72; O Edickson (Den), 71, 72, 68; J Davis (Sri), 70, 73, 68; 212; R Goss (SA), 73, 69, 70; J Coyle (Ang), 72, 69, 71; J Cornes (Sri), 68, 71, 72; J Van de Velde (Frl), 70, 73, 69; G Turner (NZ), 67, 72, 73; J Spence, 68, 75, 69; B Marchbank, 68, 75, 69; 212; P Fowler (Sri), 73, 69, 71; S Ames (Ire), 68, 76, 69.

Centenary celebrated

HORACE Hutchinson, for one, would not have believed it. On Saturday, the Ladies' Golf Union (LGU) celebrated its centenary with a dinner at St Andrews, and Hutchinson, long since departed, was much feted (Patricia Davies writes).

For Hutchinson, a golfing authority who won the Amateur Championship twice and became captain of the Royal and Ancient, said in no uncertain terms in 1893 that the notion of such a union was a load of twaddle and it would not last a week. "Constitutionally and physically women are unfitted for golf... the first ladies' championship will be the last unless I and others are much mistaken."

Saturday's gathering provided irrefutable evidence that he was, indeed, mistaken. Dignitaries from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and the United States were on hand to pay tribute to the LGU and its pioneers. The presence of John Lindsay-Bethune, the captain of the R and A, was an indication that Hutchinson's remarks, although far from forgotten, had not been allowed to fester. The LGU wisely disregarded the calls — isolated but shrill enough — to exclude men from the dinner.

To survive the first 100 years is an achievement but there are still battles to be fought and imperfections to be addressed. Surviving the next 100 will be even harder work.

Offiah takes centre stage for Wigan

Wigan.....40
Warrington.....5

By Christopher Irvine

THE Halle are to give a concert on the pitch at Central Park next month, although whether it can achieve the supreme orchestration Wigan managed yesterday in the Stones Bitter Premiership is open to doubt.

A second-string team maintained a relentless tempo. Warrington were led the merriest of dances and, like any fine ensemble, the finesse of the accompaniment allowed the soloist to flourish.

Martin Offiah conjured two tries out of nothing and finished off three more in a breathtaking display somewhat untypical of the winger this season. His 31 tries represent a meagre haul by his remarkable standards, though Widnes are unlikely to see it that way at Wembley on Saturday.

Even without six players, who will keep the treatment room on overtime before the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, Wigan reached deep into their unmatched well of talent and came up with an eight-try display to reach the Premiership semi-finals, where they will meet Castleford.

Possession may be nine-tenths of the law against any other side and Warrington had ball and chances enough to convert more than a fortuitous touchdown by Darbyshire in the second half, yet were confounded by masterly defence and were held virtually every time Wigan and Offiah ran at them.

Dermott and Robinson were casualties, with ankle

injuries, but should recover in time for the final. In the meantime, Skerrett, the troubled prop forward, came through his trial of strength with an impressive first-half show and the powerful running of Farrell, 17, from second row could well have ensured that he is the youngest finalist since Shaun Edwards in 1984.

At no point did Warrington have the legs of Offiah, who popped up on the end of nearly every pass. Edwards found him for two tries while his hat-trick was a solo burst from 90 yards out. Panapa was the provider of his fourth score and Bell the fifth after the captain had burst through close tackling for two scores of his own in the final quarter. BETTS scored the other try.

SCORERS: Wigan: Three Offiah (6), Bell (2), Betts, Gossie Farrell (4), Warrington: Two Darbyshire, Dropped goal: Mordley. WIGAN: P Acheson, J Robinson, D Bell, S Panapa, M Offiah, S Edwards, M Groomer, N Skerrett, G G. I. Galloway, M Dermott, Sub M Hall, M Forshaw, A Farrell, M Cassidy, D Betts. WARRINGTON: L Parris, Sub P Darbyshire, P Wilkinson, A Balaam, J Thomson, M Forster, E Ellis, G Mackay, N Hamon, D Merrin, G Toss, Sub B Richards, G Sanderson, P Gullen, R Shearer. Referee: D Allen.

CL Leeds won 22-10 at Widnes in the first round of the Stones Bitter Premiership to earn a semi-final tie at St Helens, but Widnes's injury problems ahead of the Challenge Cup final against Wigan multiplied with Paul Moriarty, a suspected broken arm, and John Deveney, his Welsh compatriot, picking up problems. Castleford marked the appointment of John Joyner, the former club captain, as their coach for next season, with a convincing 19-6 first-round win at Bradford North.

STONES BITTER PREMIERSHIP: Semi-final draw, Wigan v Castleford, St Helens v Leeds. Ties to be played on May 7 and 9.

Teachers' action is trade dispute

Restrictions removed from papers

Wandsworth London Borough Council v National Association of School Masters and Union of Women Teachers

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Steyn and Lord Justice Rose

[Judgment April 23] - Industrial action taken by teachers who refused to carry out certain assessments and tests in accordance with the national curriculum, in order to persuade the Secretary of State for Education to reduce the excessive workload caused by those duties, was a "trade dispute" within the meaning of section 244 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, and as such protected by the statute.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the applicants, Wandsworth London Borough Council, the local education authority, from the refusal by Mr Justice Mannell (The Times April 7) to grant them, *inter alia*, injunctive relief against the defendants, the National Association of School Masters and Union of Women Teachers.

Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Nigel Giffin for the council; Mr Jeffrey Burke, QC and Mr David Bean for the union.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL, giving the judgment of the court, said that the council was the local education authority for Wandsworth employing a substantial number of school teachers who were members of the defendant union. The dispute was not, however, between the union and the council but between the union and the Secretary of State for Education.

The central question was whether the dispute was a "trade dispute" as defined in section 244 of the 1992 Act. It was for the union to establish that it was protected from liability in tort under section 219 of the Act.

The union accepted that its members who were school teachers were contractually obliged to carry out assessments and tests in accordance with the national curriculum. It was further accepted that unless protected by section 219 the union was liable in tort by inducing its members to break their contracts of employment by the instructions it gave in relation to the boycott of certain parts of the tests. The union asserted that a trade dispute existed between the union and a minister of the Crown so as to attract immunity in accordance with section 219 and section 244.

The primary case for the union was that there was a trade dispute within the meaning of section 244(2)(b) between the union and the minister because there was a dispute which related wholly or mainly to the terms and conditions of employment of its members and that the dispute could not be settled without the minister exercising the power conferred on him by or under the Education Reform Act 1988 and the Schoolteachers' Pay and Conditions Act 1991.

It was said that the dispute related to the statutory conditions of employment defined in section 1(2) of the 1991 Act and that the principal way in which the minister could settle the dispute would be by limiting the working time prescribed in the Schoolteachers' Pay and Conditions Document 1992 or by modifying the professional duties imposed on school teachers in the 1992 document.

On behalf of the council, it was submitted that on a proper analysis of the dispute and of the evidence relating to it, it was apparent that the dispute was not wholly or mainly a dispute relating to the terms and conditions of employment but was primarily or substantially concerned with objections and reservations which members of the union had about the procedures which were to be used for the assessments and tests associated with the national curriculum. It was not a dispute about working time but a dispute about the content of the work which the national curriculum required schoolteachers to undertake.

The court had come to a clear conclusion. It seemed to be clear looking at the history of the dispute since 1990 that there had been increasing concern expressed by

the union on behalf of its members with regard to working time. That concern came to a head as the date for lay stage three testing approached. It was clear that union members had criticisms to make about the national curriculum on educational grounds.

That was recognised by Mr de Gruchy, the secretary general of the union, in his affidavit, but he had added "of most concern to the union in relation to its members is the excessive and unnecessary workload imposed on teachers as a consequence of national curriculum assessment and testing, and as a result of which teachers are being asked to do more work than they can do".

Furthermore, the court attached considerable importance to the wording of the question posed in the ballot paper, which stated: "In order to protest against the excessive workload imposed on teachers, as a consequence of national curriculum assessment and testing, are you willing to take action, short of strike action?"

In the court's judgment the dispute did mainly relate to the terms and conditions of the members of the union's members and was a trade dispute within the meaning of section 244 of the 1992 Act.

Solicitors: Mr Martin Walker, Wandsworth; Robin Thompson & Partners.

material was to assist the beneficial winding up of the company. But the mere fact the transcript was wanted for use in proceedings, whether civil or criminal, was not enough. The process of private examination did not leave the court with a pool of information to be made available to any third party who might want to go fishing to see what he could find that might be helpful in civil or criminal proceedings.

It was likely that the transcripts and other documents which the Serious Fraud Office had obtained or would be obtaining from Mr Kevin Maxwell would be obtained by Mr Kevin Maxwell in due course of the criminal proceedings, at some stage after a notice of transfer to the crown court had been given, if not before.

That would be a matter for the court in the criminal proceedings to deal with without further reference to the transcript of the private examination of Mr Kevin Maxwell. The disclosure of documents would be a corollary of the documents having come into the possession of the Serious Fraud Office for the purposes of the prosecution.

It was not, however, for their Lordships' court or the Chancery Division to anticipate or interfere with the procedure of the criminal court. Still less was it for their Lordships' court or the Chancery Division to mark its disapproval of the magistrate's decision to allow the Serious Fraud Office more time before giving notice of transfer.

Lord Justice Steyn and Lord Justice Rose delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Peters & Peters; Treasury Solicitor.

including affidavits and witness statements.

Mr Kevin Maxwell supported the submissions against the Serious Fraud Office made in the *Arrows* case (The Times April 26).

In one respect his case went further than counsel for Mr Naviede in the *Arrows* case in that it was submitted that the alleged public interest immunity founded on the public interest that liquidations should be conducted speedily and efficiently was a general immunity which imposed a duty on the office-holders not to disclose, for example, transcripts which could not in any normal sense be waived, even by the consent of the person examined, although it might in some circumstances be overridden by some other public interest.

In his Lordship's judgment, however, there was no public interest immunity to prevent the disclosure of transcripts or other documents by office-holders to prosecution or regulatory authorities under the statutory duties or powers of the office-holders, including their duties under section 2 of the 1987 Act.

It was also asked by counsel for Mr Kevin Maxwell that the office-holders should be ordered to disclose simultaneously to Mr Kevin Maxwell and his advisers copies of all the transcripts and other documents which they disclosed to the Serious Fraud Office.

Cases where persons other than prosecution or regulatory authorities sought disclosure or inspection of transcripts might raise a variety of different considerations.

Disclosure cases, however, were clearly justified because the use proposed to be made of the

in re *Arrows Ltd* (No 4) Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Steyn and Lord Justice Rose

[Judgment April 7] The restrictions imposed by section 218 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987 on the use of statements obtained under the section did not apply to documents obtained in an examination under section 236 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal by the Director of the Serious Fraud Office against an order of Mr Justice Vinelott (The Times November 11, 1992) directing that the liquidators of *Arrows Ltd*, which was in compulsory liquidation, release and disclose the transcripts and certain affidavits made by Mr Muhammad Naviede, in the course of his examination under section 236 of the 1986 Act, to the Director of the Serious Fraud Office upon the director undertaking (1) that he would not use the transcripts or affidavits or any copies thereof in evidence against Mr Naviede save in the circumstances specified in section 218 of the 1987 Act and (2) that he would procure an affidavit in the same terms as (1) from any party to whom he supplied such transcripts or affidavits.

Section 2 of the 1987 Act provides: "(8) A statement by a person in response to a requirement imposed by virtue of this section may only be used in evidence against him—... (b) on a prosecution for some other offence where in giving evidence he makes a statement inconsistent with it."

Mr Roger Kaye, QC and Mr Richard Ritchie for the Director of the SFO; Mr John Jarvis, QC and Mr Ewan McQuarrie for the liquidators; Mr A. W. H. Charles for the Department of Trade and Industry; Mr Matthew Collings for Mr Naviede.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that in *Bishopsgate Investment Management Ltd v Maxwell* (The Times January 30, 1992; [1993] Ch 1) the Court of Appeal had held that a person summoned to appear before the court under section 236 of the 1986 Act did not rely on the privilege against self-incrimination. Beyond that, any statement made by a person during his examination under section 236, or other provisions of the Act, was admissible in evidence against him in any proceedings, whether criminal or civil: see section 433.

Given therefore that the transcripts of Mr Naviede's examination under section 236 and the affidavits had been made were admissible evidence against him in the criminal proceedings now pending against him, his Lordship found it surprising that the chancery court should be invited to restrict the use of that evidence in the criminal court.

There was no basis on which the judge could have imposed the restrictions in section 218 of the 1987 Act on the use by the Serious Fraud Office of the transcripts of Mr Naviede's examination and affidavits supplied to them by the liquidators. Moreover, his Lordship did not see how the judge could have had power to exact undertakings from the director in order to achieve a condition he had no power to impose.

Documents protected by legal professional privilege did not have

to be produced under section 2 of the 1987 Act. It was said that the transcripts of Mr Naviede's examination under section 236 of the 1986 Act, because they had that privilege because they were the examination to get evidence to use against Mr Naviede in civil proceedings to recover money from him for *Arrows Ltd*.

But if that was so the privilege was a privilege of the liquidators and not of Mr Naviede. But the liquidators did not claim to invoke any such privilege. There was no reason to compel the liquidators to invoke any privilege for the by-product of protecting Mr Naviede, who had no such privilege.

There was no doubt that information given to office-holders in the course of an examination under section 236 was, in certain respects, confidential. However, such confidentiality as there was was overridden by the section which made the statements admissible in evidence against the maker of the statements: see *London & South Western Railway Ltd v London & South Western Railway Ltd* [1990] 1 WLR 948.

More confidentiality thus not being enough, it was suggested that there was a public interest immunity, founded on the public interest that liquidations should be conducted speedily and efficiently, which warranted excluding statements under section 236 from evidence in subsequent proceedings, or at any rate excluding them except under safeguards comparable to those in section 218 of the 1987 Act, even though section 433 of the 1986 Act and section 433 of the Companies Act 1985 provided no such safeguards.

The reasoning was that persons

examined under section 236 were more likely to be co-operative and to give full and truthful answers to the office-holders if they believed that their answers would be treated as confidential and would thus not be used against them in any prosecution. Consequently, it appeared that some office-holders made a practice of giving assurances of confidentiality to persons who were being examined under section 236.

The main objects of the office-holders in conducting a section 236 examination were likely to be to see if it was possible to trace and to see if it was possible to establish money claims for the benefit of the company against the person currently being examined or against someone else.

Such money claims might have no criminal implications, for example, a claim for damages for a professional negligence against a company's auditors.

But other claims, particularly against directors, might have serious criminal implications, for instance, claims against directors for fraudulent trading, for theft of the company's moneys or for damages for conspiracy to defraud the company.

Any director or other person being examined would know that his answers might be used in evidence against him in any civil proceedings brought against him by the office-holder on behalf of the company. Nobody would expect such confidentiality as there was in a section 236 examination to extend to prevent that.

Indeed, the confidentiality was not for the protection of the person

being examined but for the protection of the office-holder.

For his part, his Lordship considered that because of the powers of enforcement that backed up section 236 there should be no practical difficulty in securing the co-operation of the person being questioned on examination under section 236. There would be the less difficulty for office-holders as the scope and force of the legislation came to be more widely appreciated in the light of the present decision and other recent decisions of the Court of Appeal and recent decisions of the House of Lords.

Plaintiff office-holders should not give assurances of confidentiality to persons they were about to question which were inconsistent with the other statutory obligations of the office-holders, including those which would arise under section 2 of the 1987 Act on demand by the Serious Fraud Office.

As his Lordship saw it, any assurance given by an office-holder to, for example, a director of a company, which if observed would prevent the office-holder from complying with a statutory obligation had to that extent to be invalid.

For those reasons, his Lordship would allow the appeal and release the director from the undertakings which the judge had required him to give.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Lovell White Durand; Treasury Solicitor; Burton Copeland, Manchester.

No right to production of documents

In re Headington Investments

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Steyn and Lord Justice Rose

[Judgment April 7] Where documents relating to an examination under section 236 of the Insolvency Act 1986 were relevant to a prosecution, the defence had no right to the production of those documents similar to the right of the Director of the Serious Fraud Office under section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when giving reasons for refusing, on March 26, an application by Mr Kevin Maxwell for leave to appeal against an order of Mr Justice Vinelott of February 10.

Mr R. Alan Jones, QC and Miss Clare Montgomery for Mr Kevin Maxwell; Mr A. W. H. Charles for the Department of Trade and Industry; Miss Mary Arden, QC and Miss Kate Thirlwall for the Serious Fraud Office.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that Mr Kevin Maxwell's application raised, *inter alia*, questions as to whether transcripts of private examinations under section 236 of the Insolvency Act 1986 should be supplied not merely to the prosecution but also to defendants in criminal proceedings.

Mr Kevin Maxwell was a son of the late Robert Maxwell, who died on November 5, 1991. From November 1991 the Serious Fraud Office had been conducting an investigation into the affairs of Robert Maxwell and of many of the companies with which he had been concerned. Mr Kevin Maxwell was at one time a director of various of those companies which had, since the death of Robert Maxwell, gone into liquidation or administrative receivership.

The office-holders in those companies desired to examine Mr Kevin Maxwell under section 236 of the 1986 Act in relation to the affairs of the respective companies. In *Bishopsgate Investment Management Ltd v Maxwell* (The Times January 30, 1992; [1993] Ch 1), to which Mr Kevin Maxwell was a party, it was held that the privilege against self-incrimination was impliedly abrogated by the 1986 Act in respect of persons being examined under section 236 and various other sections of that Act.

Thereafter, Mr Kevin Maxwell was examined or interviewed by the various office-holders under section 235 or 236 of the Act.

On June 18, 1992 Mr Kevin Maxwell was charged with offences of theft and fraudulent conspiracy in relation to the companies. Thereafter he had several further interviews with office-holders and he was also, legitimately and without any objection on his part, examined on several occasions by the Serious Fraud Office under section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987.

The Director of the Serious Fraud Office had now moved on to office-holders to produce to the Serious Fraud Office all transcripts of interviews conducted by them or on their behalf under either section 235 or 236 of the 1986 Act or on a voluntary basis or equivalent principles with Mr Kevin Maxwell and a large number of other people together with copies of all documents or other material supplied to the office-holders by those persons.

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Informant cannot be liable over arrest

Davidson v Chief Constable of the North Wales Police and Another

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Waite

[Judgment April 20] A defendant was not liable on a claim for damages for false imprisonment where he merely gave information to the prosecuting authority which effected the plaintiff's arrest and detention and had not himself instigated or procured it.

A store detective who incorrectly informed police officers that the plaintiff had been involved in shoplifting was not therefore liable on the plaintiff's action for false imprisonment where the officers, in exercise of their own discretion, had arrested and detained the plaintiff.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by Miss Marina Davidson, now Mrs Asbury, from Judge Roberts, QC, who, sitting at Llangefni County Court, had withdrawn from the jury her claim for damages for false imprisonment against Frances Clarke Ltd, the employers of a store detective who mistakenly considered that the plaintiff had been involved in the theft of a cassette from Woolworths in Bangor and had informed the police accordingly.

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plaintiff submitted to judgment in respect of the Chief Constable of the North Wales Police on the ground that the police officers had been justified in acting under section 24(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. No charge had been brought against the plaintiff who, it was accepted, was entirely innocent of any allegation of dishonesty.

Mr Anthony Clover for the plaintiff; Mr Andrew W. Lewis for the second defendants.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS referred to *Aikin v Bedwell* (1827) 1 M & M 1084, *Grinham v Willey* (1849) 4 H & N 496 and *Meering v White Cartwright & Carter* (1813) 10 M & W 136 in which the essential test of a defendant's liability was whether he had given information to a properly constituted authority on which it might act or whether he was the promoter and instigator of what followed.

In *Pike v Warmun and P & O Steam Navigation Co* (1952) 1 Lloyd's Rep 431, 454 Mr Justice Barry had said that a person who requested a police officer to take some other person into custody might be liable to an action for false imprisonment, but would not be so if he merely gave information on which the constable decided to make an arrest.

The question for the judge was whether there was information properly to be considered by the

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In *Pike v Warmun and P & O Steam Navigation Co* (1952)



THEATRE page 30
Maria Miles makes the most of her leading role in a revival of Musset's *Don't Fool with Love*

ARTS

BOOKS page 31

Marilyn Monroe: a new biography of the tragic film star is reviewed by Fiona Pitt-Kethley



Prodigal pride, but posthumous



Memories of schooldays: Razida Nureyeva, Rudolf Nureyev's sister, in a classroom at the Ufa Ballet School, which she and her brother attended in the early 1950s when it was an ordinary school

Razida Nureyeva, sister of the late Rudolf Nureyev, smoothed her modest knitted skirt as she watched the 15-year-old boys doing their final ballet examination exercises. "It's a bit late for all their praise," she said.

The city of Ufa wants to set up a Rudolf Nureyev fund to help young dancers, and to rename its choreographic school in honour of its most famous son. "What can I say?" Razida continues. "Of course I'm not against it. But after all these years... it's a bit much to change their attitude only when he's dead."

She and Rudolf, her younger brother, both went to school in the very building where the new generation of dancers was training. But in those days—the early 1950s—it was a normal secondary school.

Seven years ago the old building was repaired and remodelled, dormitories were constructed, the former gym was turned into one of the rehearsal rooms—with barres, mirrors and a new floor—and the school took in its first group of ten-year-olds.

In a few months, this first intake will graduate. And Ufa, determined to establish itself as a centre of Russian classical ballet, will send its dancers out into the world. Those in their final year are already performing in the opera and ballet

Michael Binyon visits the Russian hometown of Rudolf Nureyev, where a ballet school named after the late star is about to release its first graduates

theatre of this city of more than one million. Ufa, the capital of the autonomous oil-rich republic of Bashkiria, with money to buy the best talent and facilities, is quietly emerging as a real competitor to Perm: the older ballet school of the Urals, and generally reckoned to be the third strongest company in Russia after the Bolshoi and the Kirov.

The Nureyev connection clearly helps, and Ufa is hoping to build on it. A temporary plaque has just been put up on the theatre walls to commemorate his early years there; a permanent one will be unveiled with full honours later. Most people know about the dancer's achievements abroad, although nobody ever saw him perform. For years, even to mention his name was taboo. Sadly for his sister, she too never knew her brother or saw him dance after he became famous. His one visit home in 1987 was a brief and painful affair, and he did not even stay overnight.

But the school—founded by Ali Bikchurin, a contemporary and friend of Nureyev at the Kirov—has decided to make up for years of officially boycotting the outside

world. At the invitation of enthusiasts in Britain, it plans to open a Russian classical ballet school in Britain to spread the message to the West of the rigorous training and unchanging discipline demanded in Russia of all the country's future dancers. At Christmas, Ufa will also bring a children's ballet, *Pinocchio*, to Britain as part of a campaign to promote more children's choreography.

The English connection has been helped by the school having in its graduating class a British choreographic student, Christina Davdova, who has already taken a group of students to perform in Cobham, Kent, and is an eager exponent of the school's strengths. She came to Ufa from South Africa via Budapest, Leningrad and Perm, and is so committed to Russian ballet that she hopes to continue at Moscow's prestigious



Rudolf Nureyev: he returned only once

State Theatrical Institute, and possibly then join a Russian company. She has already Russianised her surname and feels quite at home in an environment where she hears no word of English spoken for weeks on end.

Competition to enter the ballet school is fierce, with one place for every 300 applicants. Most are from Bashkiria itself, a Moslem republic of only four million people, and their Islamic names and slightly Oriental features distinguish them from the Russians. Only girls for whom this Moslem background raises no religious hackles enter the school: it is mixed, and ballet is hardly an art form sanctioned by fundamentalists. Student numbers stand at 202.

The atmosphere is intense, competitive and dedicated. The diet, extremely important for growing dancers, is very Russian with plenty

of carrots, borscht and sour cream. And whatever the shortages in the markets—a serious worry in recent years—fruit juice and fresh vegetables are always on the menu.

But politics has recently cast a long shadow over the school's future. The new nationalist government in Ufa is eager to emphasise its Bashkir roots, and has put strong pressure on the school to concentrate more on national folk dancing, at the expense of classical ballet. The new minister of culture appears to have little feeling for ballet, as he is a trained agriculturalist and knows more about crop rotation than ploures.

Bikchurin was sacked and his deputy, Akhat Fauchudinov, put in charge, although the school's founder has continued as a pedagogue. The relationship is a little tense. "But it's not my fault that all this politics has got in the way," said the new director. The rumpus comes just before the school celebrates its first graduation, and what should have been a moment of achievement has been down-played by the political establishment.

CONCERT

Quirky, but more than that

Barry Millington on another in the series at London's South Bank: "Alternative Vienna"

Whatever else may be said about "Alternative Vienna", this South Bank series cannot be accused of predictability. The two featured composers, H.K. Gruber and Kurt Schwertsik, both have a reputation as gnats on the hide of the musical establishment, but the pair of works from each, in Saturday night's Queen Elizabeth Hall concert by the London Sinfonietta under Lothar Zagrosek, demonstrated that there is more to either than mere snook-cocking.

Gruber's Cello Concerto, premiered four years ago, sustains a continuous 20-minute movement of kaleidoscopic textural variety, full of ravishing sounds and surprises. Jazzy rhythms and colours fuse imperceptibly with an individual neo-classical idiom. The solo cello part is gratifyingly lyrical—as Christopher van Kampen's eloquent playing testified—and the continually shifting patterns of orchestral sound were realised with splendid refinement by the Sinfonietta.

What makes the Cello Concerto so characteristic and fascinating a work, however, is the elusiveness of its tone. Nostalgia constantly hovers on the brink of irony, while geniality jostles with something more threatening.

No less oblique is Gruber's *The Red Carpet* being *Unrolled*, an earlier work that has been through various transformations. Particularly teasing are its beginning and end. The former is a wisp of sound emanating from an indeterminate source. One looks in vain along the line of wind instrument—it turns out to be the double bass high up its top string. The ending humorously appends a decisive major chord to the same kind of hyper-active, mercurial texture heard in the concerto. It is the last thing you would have expected—not so much a coda as a codpiece—yet in retrospect it seems the perfect conclusion.

Schwertsik's cycle of seven arias, *Shalimar*, a setting of H.C. Artmann's "Persian Quatrains", was receiving its first British performance in its newly revised orchestral version. This is another beautifully written score, abounding in subtle combinations of timbre, and offering a solo baritone a gift of a part—every bar of which was retitled by Peter Savidge.

The same composer's *Twilight Music* is utterly different: drawing on Scottish and Irish jigs, it is tuneful, evocative and not unlike an up-market soundtrack for a television drama set, say, in the Western Isles.

Given the known eccentricities of Gruber and Schwertsik, it was ironic that the real joker in the pack was Christian Olfenbauer, whose *Two Intermezzi from Medea*, incorporating ticking metronomes, were as tediously over-extended a collection of empty gestures as it was possible to imagine.



Seekers: Brenda Fricker is one of the wives involved

Half-way through last night's *Seekers* (ITV), I had a mystical experience. The screen went wibbly-wobbly, as if for a flashback, and I thought "That's funny" because the fireplace and the cats all went wibbly-wobbly as well. However, since by this time I was game for anything that would alleviate the tedium of this flaky, stupid story, I sat back for results. Perhaps I would be transported to the moment when the "pitch" was made for *Seekers*. Which would be appropriate: rarely have I seen a television drama more obviously an animated "pitch".

"It's got these two women," a voice said. "One's a menopausal Irish housewife, the other a young, sexy black ex-cop—and well, they discover

TELEVISION REVIEW: Lynne Truss on a preposterous two-part drama

Bigamy's the least of their worries

they are both married to the same man!" "Wow," said somebody else. "Right. He's a shady detective who's disappeared after some late-night shenanigans with a computer disc, and who appears to have died in a fire—body and hair all in flames, the works. But then, and this is the clever part, he turns up showing no ill-effects save a pair of flannel gloves, and a tiny scar which heals."

"I like it." "You do?" "Sure. Two women, and one's black. But what about this disc?" "The disc? Hey, the disc is

just a McGuffin. Everybody wants the disc, that's all. Several people die for it." "Oh, McGuffin is a technical term? Nothing to do with McDonalds? I never realised. Hey, that would explain why the boys keep bringing me micro-dons, and letters of transit when all I want is a muffin with an egg in it. But oh boy oh boy, what happens? The broads hate each other, right? Maybe the younger one is pregnant, maybe—"

"But she is! And she gives birth prematurely because she is beaten up by hoodlums, and

then she discharges herself immediately, regains her figure, and starts running the detective agency, with her new best friend, the other wife. And the baby is as good as gold, an exotic prop in bunny-suits. And when the husband turns up, the women each beg him to go away, for the sake of protecting the other."

"Will people buy it?" "Which? The recovery, the agency, the baby, or the staggering devotion of people who've known each other five minutes? Trust me. This is Lynda La Plante. Brenda

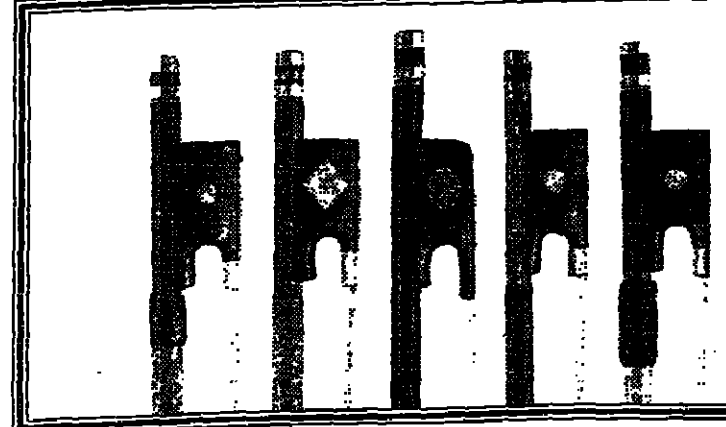
Fricker is the housewife; Josette Simon is the black woman with the all-purpose penetrating stare, who cleverly deals with awkward issues by saying, "Do you think I haven't asked myself the same question?" And the soundtrack will combine doomy danger stuff with diddle-diddle-pom-pom, to say that it's a thriller in which nothing dangerous happens except to bad guys. It will be incredibly simple, yet far too complicated to make sense. And with a second episode on Wednesday, that's four hours of primetime ITV."

"Four hours? Why didn't you say so? And you're sure people won't mind about the baby, and the friendship, and the McGuffin, and all?" "They'll take it as comic licence." "You mean it's funny?" "I didn't say that."

At which point everything went wibbly-wobbly again, and I lost the picture. So I never found out whether Lord help us, they were planning any more. Meanwhile, as I comforted a disoriented cat that was currently re-experiencing its Whiskas, I pondered the absurd proposition that a shallow plot device, or indeed a whole shallow drama, could be the television equivalent of a bland, egg fast food in a polystyrene box.



Josette Simon: the wife with the real-purpose stare



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Gourmandising of a modern Gargantua

Eddie Vallender, Pompey's protagonist, is a healer in an unhealable world. Only legitimate son of Major Guy Vallender, a sexually and financially profligate pyrotechnician, Eddie is half-brother to three of Guy's progeny spread around the globe: failed abortion Madison the mad Bannu, in the backstreet Bannu; Pompey; misfired Bonnie, Eddie's half-sister; Jean-Marie Meyer-Decker anthropophagous the HOT LOVE (sic) virus from the pygmies of the Belgian Congo's hinterlands to Pompey and the world. Eddie grows, Guy dies, Eddie's healing abilities are nurtured by Ray Butt, Max Millerish comic turned leader of The Church of The Best Ever Redemption.

The intricacies of the plot, simple enough when dislocated, ball from near line, are in reality folded up and stashed in the tiny crevices of the wall of adjective and obscure and invented vernacular that is the Meadish language: speed readers needn't bother even trying. Meades's other works of fiction and journalism have been nothing more than primers for his theories about the provenance of the AIDS virus, the sexual predilections of the seafaring and provincial working classes, druggies and revivalists.

The language too has been rehearsed: his restaurant writing in these pages is for those who like to have their English flecked with a more exotic, but never alien, tongue. Filthy English was for intermediate speakers of Meadish, and this is the dialect written in its advanced form. As the Eskimo language is good at the taxonomy of snow, so Meadish is the lingo to turn to when you need to describe how a scab peels off the scalp or what a boil looks like when it's pinched to bursting.

John Diamond

POMPEY

By Jonathan Meades
Jonathan Cape, £14.99

ly queues "... another scent was womanly, grown-up, profound, metallic, oostreous, sudorific..." lest a single nuance escape each sentence's smack in the teeth. Pompey has equally personal rules of tense. Time pops around all over the place: a sentence will start with a present "is", nip back for a past "was" and dart up to a "will be", all before hitting the full stop. Not just the sentences either: bracketed references connect events at the start of the story with events yet

to come and thus the dramatic irony comes laid on with two trowels and a small sledgehammer. If the language obeys no previously known rules, neither do the characters it describes. Pompey assumes amorality on behalf of all players, walk-ons included, save Eddie himself. If anyone so much as leans towards a moral value he or she is written off as weak, craven or, worse, insufferably English. But then what would Meades do without the English? The American influence pervades everything we do, say or write nowadays, but not here in Pompey — itself the vernacularly rendered Portsmouth. As if in some sci-fi story which posits a world where the Boston Tea Party had never taken place, Pompey exists entirely in England

and speaks an untainted English, or Anglo-Meadish at least, even when it travels to Europe or Africa. The vernacular is pulled from every class and condition of Englishman — bless his chops, do his tronic, bint, jankers, a list of sexual euphemisms which could be extracted and published separately as an addendum to Partridge — and every age from the thirties to the fifties, stopping only at that coffee bar period when we started swapping our homespun neologisms for the flashier Yankee versions. In anyone else's hands a money-spinning revivalist preacher would look across the Atlantic to Jim Bakker or Billy Graham for his influence: only Meades would find it in Max Miller.

To say that it is all too tricky by half is rather like saying that Pope's couplets are a little too heroic, trickiness, clever-cleverness, unashamed smart-arsery is the point of Pompey. It takes some getting used to, and for a chapter or so I felt like the victim of some *summa cum laude* graduate from a creative writing evening class, but it is the real thing, and it does the job. There is no question of Meades allowing you to stand on the rim of his invention and peer down at the gloomy slights, to take a whiff of the smells of putrefaction and bodily excess, to look at the rashes and gashes: he comes up behind you and pushes you into the mess. It is cloying and claustrophobic, and prefaced by the injunction: "After using this book please wash your hands." But it is all Meades.

A star who could not help being bright

Fiona Pitt-Kethley thinks Marilyn Monroe would have survived today

On one level, Donald Spoto's book is a 750-page whodunit. On another, it is a psychological exploration of Marilyn Monroe's character.

The research is admirable — everything from records of phone calls to psychiatrist's notes has been drawn upon. While it is hard to argue with this kind of thoroughness, I could not help noticing that Spoto is far too nice a man to visualise darker possibilities. His Kennedys are whiter than white. John F. Kennedy only slept with Marilyn once, his brother Robert, never. They could not possibly be involved in her death, even by means of a third party. It is all very reasonably argued. But Spoto loves to believe the best of people. Even Marilyn's

grandfather's syphilis was not caught in the ordinary way. Just why does the life of Marilyn Monroe provide such a satisfying myth for our times? The misfortunes of her life include something that everyone can identify with — anyone who has come from a broken home, addicts, those in unhappy marriages, women who cannot bear children, romantics searching for someone to love and to be loved by, blondes who are not dumb and exploited women everywhere. That is the strength of her story. While Marilyn is the archetypal image of suffering, the persona she shows before the camera is one of total glamour. The clear message is that the human spirit can triumph above all adversities. At 36, she was at the height of her beauty when she died. Her death is therefore the greater tragedy. That is one reason we want to know how and by whom she was killed.

Spoto sets Marilyn's problems within the Hollywood context. He makes it clear that the constant over-prescribing

of sedatives and other drugs was a feature of the system. The studios did not care what happened to their stars, ultimately, as long as they finished the picture in hand.

Studio executives and directors could be bastards in other subtle ways. John Huston emerges as one of the most macho — he "treats me like an idiot with his 'dear this' and 'dear that'. Why doesn't he treat me like a normal actress? I wish he'd give me the same attention he gives those gambling machines." He had his own brand of humour though. When one of Marilyn's breasts escaped from beneath the sheet, he called "Cut!" with a yawn. "I've seen 'em before."

Probably the only director who fully appreciated Marilyn's acting was Henry Hathaway, who made *Niagara*. For him, she was "marvellous to work with, very easy to direct and terrifically ambitious to do better. And really bright. She may not have had an education, but she was just naturally bright. But always being trampled on by bums. I don't think anyone ever treated her on her own level. To most men she was something they were a little bit ashamed of."

Her sexuality was often a source of discomfort to moral America. She was forced to rehearse "Happy Birthday" for several hours before a White House party. However hard she tried she could not make it sound less sexy. I expected the stereotype of the tortured star, but Spoto's Marilyn is not two-dimensional. One of the surprises of the book is her constant kindness and also the strength of her political beliefs. On the financial level, she was consistently generous to friends and acquaintances, but the story I like best about her concerns Ella Fitzgerald. When Mar-

ilyn heard that no Hollywood club would hire a non-white performer, she persuaded one club to do so by booking the front table there for herself and friends for all the nights Fitzgerald was to perform.

Although Hathaway credited her with intelligence, few people have acknowledged her wit. Her strong sense of humour never deserted her even in the most dire circumstances. During a brief incarceration in a grim psychiatric hospital, one of the attendants asked her: "Why are you so unhappy?" She gave the kind of answer that could only prove her sane: "I've been playing the best doctors a fortune to find out, and you're asking me?" One of the architects of Marilyn's later misfortunes



Keeping her wit about her: Marilyn Monroe's intelligence shone through even in the depths of clinical depression and its suspect treatment

The ever-darkening Ray

Nicholas Ray lived nearly 20 years after Hollywood left him, but nothing was ever the same again. In *A Lonely Place* (directed by Ray in 1954) tells the story of a middle-aged scriptwriter, played by Humphrey Bogart, whose last hope affair with an out-of-work actress is ruined by a police chief's suspicion that he is a murderer. "I was born when you kissed me," Bogart tells her. "I died when you left me. I lived a few weeks while you loved me."

Ray was a midwestern boy from the same small town in Wisconsin as Joseph Losey. His father drank and died young, but not before he had passed on the vice to his son.

When he left home, he soon found work at the aggroprop Theatre of Actors in New York with many of the young actors and directors who were also to make their names in Hollywood. After it folded, he was hired by the New Deal arts programme to direct local theatre groups in poor rural communities. Although he was briefly a communist — a fact known to the FBI — he passed unscathed through the Hollywood purges, largely thanks to the intervention of Howard Hughes.

Perhaps because of his own troubled childhood, Ray was fascinated by outcasts and misfits, and it was his ability to cast and direct actors who could express the waste and hurt of such characters which



Doomed alliance: Nicholas Ray and James Dean during the making of *Rebel Without a Cause*

distinguished his films — particularly *A Lonely Place* and *Johnny Guitar* — from the Hollywood mainstream. But it was critics in Europe, rather than in his own country, who were the first to notice this. In 1957, Jean Luc Godard declared in *Cahiers du Cinema*: "The cinema is Nicholas Ray." Ray soon became the darling of the Nouvelle Vague.

Rebel Without a Cause was his most successful film and it

was also more his — the story, the direction, and the editing — than anything else he ever did. Ray and James Dean planned to make other films together, but when Dean died, Ray started drinking again, and within a few years no producer in Hollywood was prepared to risk hiring him.

During the 1960s, he swirled around Europe, a great shaggy beast of an American expatriate, larger

than life in everything, from the stories he told to the bills he left others to pay.

At the end of his life, he came back to America, gave up drink and became a sort of guru to the art-movie world. Jim Jarmusch was his pupil for a time, and in 1979, Ray and Wim Wenders made a film entitled *Lightning Over Water* about his approaching death from cancer.

This is the "American Journey" which Eisenchitz describes in his biography. The book is packed with details of the projects unrealised, the clashing personalities, and the innumerable script changes which are the primal soup out of which films are dragged. But Eisenchitz's well-researched description of the background to Ray's life leaves too many questions unanswered.

The references to Ray being a misogynist, and possibly homosexual, are never followed up. We are told he considered the naming of names to the House Un-American Affairs Committee "the betrayal of his generation", but not how it was that a few years later he came to be working in Spain for a producer toying to Franco.

Ray's brief affair with Hollywood distorted the rest of his life. But his portrayal of the misfits and the disillusioned shocked a society fattened by post-war prosperity, and in the best of his films that shock still resonates.

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LONDON SPECIALS

English National Ballet at the Savoy Theatre July 20-24

NEWLY refurbished after being badly damaged by fire in 1990, the Savoy Theatre — synonymous with the works of Gilbert and Sullivan — re-opens with a season by the English National Ballet. To celebrate the reopening The Theatre Club has negotiated two very special offers:

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during office hours. The club has also secured a priority allocation of seats at normal prices (£32, £25, £18). Telephone 071-836 8888.

The Last Yankee by Arthur Miller
Duke of York's Theatre May 4, 7.45pm
Attend the West End opening night and the cast party after the show at Smith's of Covent Garden for only £10. Telephone 071 836 7997.

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Park Theatre (0323 412000), *Double Double* by Roger Rees and Eric Ellice, May 17-22. *Deadly Replay* by David Ellis, May 25-29. **HORSHAM:** Arts Centre (0403 268689), *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas, May 4-5. *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen, May 19. Matrix Ensemble perform *Moulin Rouge*, May 21. **IPSWICH:** Wolsey Theatre (0473 253725), *Racing Demon* by David Hare, April 21-May 8. *See How They Run* by Philip King, May 12-June 12. **LEATHERHEAD:** Thorndike Theatre (0372 377677), *Dancing at Lughnassa* by Brian Friel, April 27-May 15. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë, May 18-June 5. **PLYMOUTH:** Theatre Royal (0752 267222), *O'Jyly Carte*

PAPERBACKS

PHILIP LARKIN. THE MARVELL PRESS AND ME
By Jean Hartley
The Sumach Press, £7.99

BORN in a two-up-two-down in Hull, Jean Hartley educated herself via the public libraries and Richard Hoggart's *Uses of Literatures*. In the mid-1950s she and her husband started a small poetry press, with an ancient Underwood at the kitchen table and parcels transported to the post office in the family pram. To triumphant reviews, they published Larkin's first collection, *The Less Deceived*, and their friendship lasted until Larkin's death. Hartley gives an astute but affectionate picture of the poet — a somewhat alarmed spectator of her own passionate and cheerfully unconventional life.

B. MONKEY
By Andrew Davies
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ALAN and Beatrice, A and B, tell their stories alternatively, in this part erotic comedy, part thriller. Beatrice is going straight, a new life with a New Man, but her past as an armed robber and daring graffitist — B. MONKEY READ MY NAME — keep intruding. Alan is a primary school teacher, trying to shape childhoods to be unlike his own. He, too, has an odd streak of violence under his insistence that everything is going to be OK.

Contributors: Hazel Leslie, Brian Morton

The club keeps on growing

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The London Fringe Awards



Held on Friday 10th May 1993

IN RECOGNITION of the achievements of the world's largest centre for emerging fringe theatre talent, the Theatre Club announces the London Fringe Awards, to be held at the Hackney Empire in east London on May 10, at 7.30pm. The awards recognise the contribution to the arts of more than 60 fringe theatres in London, which between them stage 1,250 innovative productions a year. The 16 categories, ranging from best actor to best children's play, include the Theatre Club's own awards for best production of a play; best first play and best playwright. More details next week.



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INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

David Tytler reports from Scotland on the tough decisions facing Gordonstoun's 'little brother'



Rise and shine: smartening up for the lessons of the day



Bang on target: learning the skills of archery



Sledging: the school takes part in ski tournaments

Fighting in the hills for new young bloods

The position is idyllic, a stately home, set amid woods and parkland overlooking the River Spey, the educational reputation high, with antecedents going back to Kurt Hahn, the founder of Gordonstoun. But now, in common with many other boarding schools, particularly the traditional prep schools, Aberlour House is having to enter the marketplace to find pupils.

'Parents do want something different'

The national figures for independent schools to be published tomorrow are expected to show a continued fall in full boarding numbers, which have been in steady decline for the past ten years. All boarding schools are having to reassess their position in the market. Should they go co-educational? Should they recruit more day pupils? Those with relatively small boarding numbers may even have to consider whether to continue.

John Cairness, a Scot who is in his second year as head of Aberlour House in Aberlour, Banffshire, is taking an aggressive approach to securing the future of the school, which was opened nearly 50 years ago by Dr Hahn. Mr Cairness is

determined that the full boarding traditions of the co-educational 8-13 school must continue, but he accepts that numbers must improve. In recent years the roll has fallen from 126 to 105 but has now topped 110. The school is a long way from major towns and is difficult and expensive to reach. The very remoteness, though, allows it to provide outdoor activities that are not available to some town-bound schools, from climbing and mountain walking to sailing.

When Mr Cairness reviewed the school's catchment area, however, he discovered that 51 per cent of the pupils came from north of the River Tay and that there were more potential customers to be found. About 20 per cent of the pupils came from abroad, an important body of the school that could not be disadvantaged by any major changes in policy.



Drumming up business: Aberlour House School, a stately home set in parkland

'The aim is the growth of each of our children'

Liberals review schools policy

Party's spokesman says some independents provide a need

As the major political parties squabbled over the centre ground at last year's general election, private education was one of the few policy areas where their differences shone out.

The Conservatives stood full square behind independent schools as the embodiment of "choice and diversity". Labour shrouded its traditional hostility and tried to reassure the voters of southern England for whom fee-paying is second nature.



Don Foster: consult

Paradoxically, it was the Liberal Democrats who appeared most hostile to private schools. The party matched Labour on assisted places and trumped it with a commitment to require individual independent schools to justify their status as charities.

Don Foster, the Liberal's new education spokesman, is now trying to row back into the mainstream. At an independent Quaker school last month, he read out the party's current policy: while Liberal Democrats guaranteed parents the right to send their children to independent schools, they recognised it was only an option for the few who could afford it. Their primary concern was, and would remain, high standards in the state sector.

Mr Foster told his audience: "You may feel it is a somewhat grudging acceptance of the existence of independent schools. It is as if we are not interested in the 7 per cent who choose not to use the state system. I, too, feel uneasy. It cannot be right that any political party, especially one that believes in the importance

A hothouse for tomorrow's leaders

Despite the cold draught of the recession, a headmaster argues that a good boarding school still offers a sound traditional British education

Critics of boarding education react quickly to any news of a decline in the numbers attending our schools; they seek evidence of terminal illness and are anxious to read the last rites. The reality of the situation, however, is that the system is alive and fighting the disease of recession better than many other sectors of our economy.



An educational community: head David McMurray takes tea with pupils at Oundle School, Northamptonshire

The demand is there: this academic year STABIS, the association of boarding schools in the state sector, has announced a significant increase in the number of pupils in its schools and in forward demand. The explanation of the reduction in demand for boarding schools in the private sector must therefore lie in the matter of

affordability and is obviously connected to the economic difficulties of the recession. Yet here again our schools are showing remarkable resilience: not one boarding school in the Headmasters' Conference has closed its doors.

What association which looks after the interests of any other sector of business or industry can make such a claim after these last three years?

It would be quite wrong to suggest, however, that the resilience of the sector is attributable only to the enforced parental population: there are much more positive reasons than that for its relative health. I believe that the system has more to offer young people

and their parents than ever. In what often appears to be a fragmenting society, boarding schools offer provision for education within a harmonious community where good learning is prized as highly as in all good schools, but where there is a greater opportunity for the development of a strong sense of leadership. Leadership and values: how common it is, and how easy, for such qualities to be decided today, and how desperately important it is that all of us in education should seek to uphold them.

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DAVID MCMURRAY
The author is Headmaster of Oundle School, Northamptonshire.

EDUCATION

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Closing date for applications Friday 28th May.



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Candidates for this senior management role must have substantial Higher Education experience in academic planning and administration.

The person appointed will be responsible for the work of a restructured Academic Office following a recent report on the academic management of the University. Salary not less than £30,000.

Applications (5 copies) including the names of three referees should be submitted by 14 May 1993 to:

The Director of Personnel, Old Shire Hall, Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HP from whom further details of the post may be obtained (telephone 091 374 3140 or fax 091 374 4747).

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Professor of Music

This new post is intended to provide leadership for a forward-looking department whose interests range from musicology, ethnomusicology and the psychology of music to computer applications and music therapy. The department combines a high profile in academic research with a strong emphasis on composition and performance. The appointment will run from 1st August, 1993, or as soon as possible thereafter, to coincide with the end of the period of office as head of department of Professor Malcolm Troup.

Applications should be sent to the Academic Registrar, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB from whom further particulars and an application form are available; telephone 071 477 8011, fax 071-477 8562. Closing date 1st June, 1993.

City University is committed to equal opportunities and applications are welcomed from anyone irrespective of colour, ethnic origin, sex, being married, or disability.

The University of Sheffield
SCHOOL OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES
Centre for Japanese Studies
SENIOR TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS
(2 POSTS)

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Applicants should possess native or near native ability in the Japanese language. Preference will be given to applicants with a background in applied linguistics and/or extensive experience teaching Japanese to native English speakers.

Initial salaries within the range £14,183 - £15,563 p.a. according to qualifications and experience. Further particulars from Director of Personnel Services, The University, PO Box 594, Sheffield S10 2UH. Tel: 0742-824144. Fax 0742-767897, to whom applications including a full C.V. and the names/addresses of three referees (2 copies of all documents) should be sent by 21 May 1993. Ref: B2152. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The Queen's University of Belfast
RESEARCH FELLOW
School of Mathematics and Physics

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Applicants, quoting Ref. 93/H1, may obtain further particulars from the Personnel Officer, The Queen's University of Belfast, BT7 1NN (telephone 0232) 245133 ext. 5044 or FAX (0232) 324944. Closing date: 31 May 1993.

The University is an Equal Opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The University reserves the right to interview only those applicants who appear, from the information available, to be the most suitable in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements of the post.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

LOUGHBOROUGH
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

VICE-CHANCELLOR

Following the appointment of Professor D.E.N. Davies as Chief Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Defence, the University has set up a Joint Committee of Council and Senate to consider the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor, under the chairmanship of

Sir Richard Morris CBE, the Chairman of Council.

Persons interested in the post or who wish to suggest names are invited to write in confidence to Sir Richard at

Administration Building One,
Loughborough University of Technology,
Loughborough,
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The University is committed to equal opportunities.

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These posts are being re-advertised and candidates who applied earlier need not re-apply.

Further particulars from Director of Personnel Services, The University of Sheffield, P.O. Box 594, Firth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2UH. Tel: 0742 824144, to whom applications, including a full CV and the names/addresses of three referees (three copies of all documents), should be sent by 21 May 1993. Ref: R272.

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Further information from the Secretary General of the Faculties, General Board Office, The Old Schools, Cambridge CB2 1TT, to whom applications (10 copies), marked 'confidential', should be sent with the names of two referees by 1 June 1993.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS



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Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from and completed applications forwarded to the Personnel Office, (Academic Section), The University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, (tel: 0532 335771 - direct line), quoting reference no. 98/28. Closing date for applications: 28 May 1993. The University of Leeds promotes an equal opportunities policy.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Shaw Lectureship in the
Economy of China

Applications are invited for this post, which is tenable from 1 October 1993 or as soon as possible thereafter, stipend on the age-related scale, £13,400 - £28,407. This is the first appointment to be made from the benefaction of Sir Run Run Shaw to further develop Chinese Studies at Oxford. The lecturer will be expected to teach and do advanced research on the economy of twentieth century China, broadly understood. The successful candidate may be offered a fellowship at St Antony's College.

Further particulars (containing details of the duties and full range of emoluments and allowances attaching to both the University and College posts) may be obtained from The Administrative Secretary, Social Studies Faculty Centre, George Street, Oxford OX1 2RL (telephone 0865-278702), to whom applications (ten copies, or one from overseas applicants) should be sent not later than Friday 4 June 1993. Applicants should also ask two or three referees to write in support of their applications in confidence to The Administrative Secretary by the closing date.

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

EDUCATION

Close eye on charter for universities

John O'Leary considers the demands on students, staff and vice-chancellors of a higher education charter

Ministers are putting the finishing touches to a higher education charter which could change the face of university education or turn out to be a damp squib. The evidence should be available in a fortnight.

Higher education was notable by its absence at the launch of the Citizen's Charter. While schools were left with league tables and a new inspection system, no demands were made of universities. The idea of a students' charter was floated before the general election, but failed to appear in the Conservative manifesto.

Under John Patten's stewardship, however, the education department has revived the concept. Prompted by the appearance of local charters in a number of universities and the publication of an alternative model by the National Union of Students (NUS), civil servants have been poring over the options for several months.

Their difficulty has been that it is easier to agree on the principle of a charter than what it should contain. Universities have a number of different "customers" and a range of different "products". Students fear that the charter may be too vague to be of real benefit, vice-chancellors are nervous that it may bring responsibilities they cannot afford and do not find appropriate. The students' charter, published by the NUS last year, was well received by universities and politicians alike. It suggested the appointment of an ombudsman, demanded compensation for the late payment of grants, and some form of redress for those who are left without accommodation. Speed of correction, rather than financial compensation, was the main guarantee sought.

However, Mr Patten's recent references to a higher education



What's new? Students, such as those pictured above at Warwick University, are concerned that a higher education charter should address the training of lecturers

charter suggest that the government's version will lay down students' responsibilities as well as their rights. The vice-chancellors, who are still smarting from not being consulted by the department, are anxious that it should.

In Scotland, where there has been consultation, the outline of a charter includes guarantees of detailed information on courses and admissions arrangements, a student-centred guidance system, the publication of results, induction courses and sources of financial support. South of the border,

attention has also focused on accommodation and students' access to previously confidential references used to allocate places.

Not only would most vice-chancellors resist the introduction of official league tables along the lines published in *The Times* last year, but many also fear that detailed guarantees would leave them open to legal action from dissatisfied students without the extra funding needed to improve services. Their only consolation is that a charter might allow them to make more specific demands on both students

and staff, for example over the submission and marking of work, or attendance at lectures and seminars.

In the new universities, where accommodation guarantees in particular could prove impossible to meet, there are additional concerns that the charter has been drawn up with the needs of a different generation of students in mind. Professor Ray Cowell, the vice-chancellor of Nottingham Trent University, says: "The kinds of information and rights included in the charter must recognise the

diversity of our students and the complexity of the courses we offer. The last thing we need is a set of pious aspirations based on a 1970s stereotype."

Nottingham Trent has its own charter drawn up with the students' union and agreed at board level. Although it sets targets for the addition of extra accommodation, the 12-page document also covers the needs of the university's 6,000 part-time students in areas such as child care.

At Sheffield Hallam University, the charter has three separate

sections: on the curriculum, central services and general issues, which extend to equal opportunities, religion and even graffiti. The curriculum covers course information and responsibilities on the submission and marking of work.

However, few of the learning contracts issued so far get to grips with students' central concern: the standard of teaching. Recent research at London University's Institute of Education found that in the search for improvement of standards the top priority for staff and employers, and ranked second by

students, was a national training scheme for lecturers. Only the use of student feedback to modify lecturing was more important to the students interviewed.

Mr Patten has expressed an interest in training for lecturers, but is unlikely to commit himself to a costly programme in his charter. For the moment, the nearest approach came last week with the launch of an accreditation scheme by the Standing Conference on Educational Development (SCED), a voluntary organisation with its roots in the former poly-

'The last thing we need is a set of pious aspirations based on a 1970s stereotype'

technics and 60 institutions as well as several hundred individual academics in membership.

Rather than offering a national training scheme, the conference will set standards for universities' own staff development programmes. A pilot scheme at five new and three old universities has produced guidelines designed to give every new lecturer basic training and the prospect of further career development.

Liz Beatty, the Brighton University lecturer responsible for SCED's programme, said at the launch of the scheme: "Most people accepted into higher education are already experts in their subject matter. What has not been done is the development of their training skills. We used to consider 20 to 30 students a large teaching group, but 120 is not unusual now."

Dr David Harrison, the vice-chancellor's chairman, who awarded the first accreditation certificate to North London University, acknowledged that there was still too little staff training in universities. "The person on the Clapham omnibus finds it odd that teaching in higher education has not until the last decade been assumed to have any training associated with it."

The facts of life are not enough

It contains a rather weary condom pulled on to a bright yellow banana which has been chemically treated to stop it going off. A huge, off-squeezed tube of sticky spermicidal jelly beds down beside a cheerful, pink packet of simulated contraceptive pills and there's a tiny sponge with ribbon attached.

I refer, of course, to the school's "Contraceptive Box" - vital visual (and tactile) aid for those of us who have to teach sex education.

There used to be a flat white plastic box, reminiscent of an old-fashioned face powder compact. This contained a rubber diaphragm and is now missing, presumed stolen by a female student whose need of it is greater than ours. At one point it contained a pair of nutcrackers placed there by a waggish male colleague with a tie-on label attached which bore the legend: "The ultimate method."

Most recently a female - Johnny has changed his sex - condom has been added, for we try to keep up to date with the latest technology.

Into classes we go, armed with this rather unappealing assortment of clinical bits and pieces, to help young people learn to cope with the most fundamental of all human drives. The emphasis is firmly on "facts". "Health education involves equipping young people to make informed choices, not influencing their decisions" is the line with which teachers have been brainwashed for at least the past 25 years.

This is nonsense, of course. How can you reduce to mere fact something which is so patently about feelings and very complex, profound ones at that? The point is that the sex part of really effective health education should present the facts in the human context of lasting, caring relationships and the emotions which they involve.

Many schools with religious foundations have long understood that there is rather more to human sexuality than the functional coupling of animals for species propagation purposes. Tragically, in far too many secular schools adults have refused to accept any responsibility for helping to

develop appropriate sexual attitudes in their charges. They provide facts and then leave 14 and 15-year-olds to find their own way. This is meant to be the sanctity of the individual's right to dispose of his/her own body, but I have come to think that we are selling youngsters short. We owe them firm guidance about



Susan Elkin

sexual behaviour. Of course, advice will quite often be ignored. It always was. But that's no reason for being frightened to advocate restraint or to suggest that marriage is a good thing.

The effects of a whole generation's having been taught about sex as a stark account of body plumbing with a bit of what Huxley bleakly called "Malthusian Drill" thrown in, are various and sinister.

First, unaccountably and in spite of all the energy which schools put into it, many youngsters are still woefully ignorant of the facts. I was horrified recently to discover that out of a group of 15-year-old girls with whom I was watching *Out of Africa* as part of an English project, not one had heard of syphilis. Even the traditional slang names for it brought no response. They are still statistically far more likely to contract syphilis than AIDS, about which almost all young people now know a little. The factual approach had certainly failed these girls. Moreover, prevailing myths such as the belief that upright intercourse precludes pregnancy, (like "first time") are still deeply entrenched in some quarters.

Second, over-emphasis on facts suggests that responsible behaviour ends with using contraceptives and the avoidance of contracting and spreading disease. After that you please yourself. Anything goes. Well, since every adult knows that sexual relationships involve the mind as well as the body we must surely systematically teach our young people about feelings and tell them that consideration for others is a crucial part of desirable adult behaviour?

Third, sex education dominated by biology and hygiene tends to lose all sight of family values. Why are we now so afraid to tell pupils that the ideal environment for a child to grow up in is one where two resident parents provide an emotionally stable home for their offspring? Has it now become politically incorrect for school sex-education books, films and so on to use the terms "husband" and "wife"? Most of them use "man" and "woman" or even more insidiously "boy" and "girl". It is as if the makers of these, often quite good resources in their way, deliberately set out to subvert any notion of sexual or emotional stability.

Now is a very good time to rethink the way in which we teach sex education. Many young criminals have never known family life, the commentators tell us. Often fathers haven't just left. They were never there. The social acceptability of such a situation is, in part, due to the facts-only sex education programmes so widely established in our schools. We have taught a whole generation that you need only to think about your own gratification. One result of this is a huge increase in single, often very young, mothers: 50 per cent of all "families" in some parts of the country. A shameful indictment.

As for me, I shall go on passing round that rather comical banana and demonstrating how to unroll a condom. I'm not denying the value of such factual learning. But at the same time I shall talk of caring, love, the family. Chastity and fidelity will get a mention, too.

Spare a tear for the global nomad

The "global nomad" is not yet a well-known term, but the chances are that it will become increasingly familiar.

The concept is well known in the United States, where local chapters are springing up in every state and where there is a dedicated quarterly magazine. The first gathering of British global nomads took place in London this weekend, when more than 100 people were addressed by Barbara Schaeffli, an American expert on the subject.

Ms Schaeffli defines a global nomad as someone who has experienced "international mobility while the sense of self is being developed", which may be broadly translated into English as "someone who lived abroad when they were a little boy or girl".

According to Global Nomads International, the American-based umbrella organisation, a childhood spent abroad can leave people with a number of unpleasant legacies.

Miserable? Alienated from your culture? Perhaps you simply spent too much time abroad as a child

Everyday events that people who live in their mother country take for granted are never experienced by the young global nomad.

Some of the symptoms that the global nomad suffers are a deep sense of isolation, a feeling of being a foreigner in his or her own country, a guardedness in relationships and an overwhelming feeling of being a victim that remains throughout adult life. Ms Schaeffli, who had lived in ten countries by the time she was 18, puts it like this: "Global nomads who return to their passport country are hidden immigrants. They don't look different, but they certainly feel different."

Key to the concept is The Global Nomad Profile, developed by David Pollack, a member of the movement. This is a detailed rundown of

the emotional strengths and weaknesses of the global nomad which strikes a chord in the hearts of many the first time they hear it.

"Many people who spent their childhood abroad are unhappy but don't really know why," Ms Schaeffli says. "When they listen to the profile they recognise themselves. A typical comment after hearing it for the first time is: 'I always thought I was abnormal. Now I know I'm not. Thank you.'"

It is tempting to laugh off the concept as another example of Americans over-intellectualising instead of keeping a stiff upper lip and getting on with life. After all, over the past 200 years, thousands of children of British government officials posted overseas spent parts of their childhood in Africa and India,

but few have ever claimed that it has caused them problems later in life. But the fact that people have only just started to recognise and discuss the problems associated with a childhood spent abroad does not necessarily mean that the experience hasn't been present for a very long time.

The reason that the term "global nomads" is likely to become familiar over the next few years is obvious when put in a European context. This year has heralded the arrival of the single European market, and ushered in an era of unprecedented freedom for citizens of EC countries to work in other member states. Indeed, the movement of people within the Community is a key part of the thinking behind the single European market. Yet the potential problems arising from the fact that

Europe comprises a number of distinct cultures are generally overlooked.

What effect will increased mobility among Europe's workers have on the next generation of Europeans? A normal English eight-year-old who spends the next ten years of his life at schools in France, Spain and Germany may return "home" speaking three foreign languages, but could experience very real difficulties settling back in. Perhaps in the coming years we will see a new phenomenon of Euro-nomads, rootless Europeans who feel deep down that they don't really belong anywhere.

The purpose of this weekend's global nomad meeting in London - and the reason that Barbara Schaeffli came half way round the world to address it - is to offer some solid advice to parents and teachers to help prevent the Euro-nomad becoming a reality.

PAUL RUBENS

Many parents are not aware of the unique education offered at choir schools

Treble chance goes begging



The Queen Mother, John Scott and choristers at St Paul's

main route into our choirs and the number of applicants is bound to fluctuate both annually and from cathedral to cathedral," says Dr John Moore, head of the King's School, Worcester, and chairman of the CSA. "The number of boarding choristers appointed this year is down - mirroring the national decline in boarders."

"Fee-paying choir schools are not immune to the effects of recession. However, there

are still many who do not realise that choir places are usually heavily subsidised, providing high academic standards and an excellent musical training at considerably less cost."

Reductions in fees, largely due to subsidy from deans and chapters, last year totalled £2.6 million. The small increase in unemployed chorister parents this year suggests that, increasingly, chorister places are becoming open to talented

children, irrespective of family means.

In return, the boys, and an increasing number of girls, are expected to work rigorously to become polished performers. According to John Scott, organist of St Paul's Cathedral, standards of cathedral choirs are without question higher than at any time in their 900-year history.

"Such levels of attainment are remarkable. Most of our services are sung with an absolute minimum of rehearsal. Under normal circumstances Evensong is prepared with about 23 minutes' rehearsal to encompass roughly 35 minutes of music. This says much about the extraordinary sight-reading ability of all concerned, and the place of spontaneity in our performances."

Yet there will still be some anxious moments at next week's conference. "It is a matter of real regret that far too few parents still don't realise what wonderful opportunities are open to their children if they can get places in cathedral or collegiate choirs. The training is second to none and lasts a lifetime," Dr Moore says.

ELIZABETH BROWN

SCHOOLS' FAIR



MORE than 450 schools are sending parties to this year's Schools' Fair, which *The Times* is organising at the end of June.

The event, which forms half of New Directions Week '93, is being held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, north London, from June 30 to July 2. The exhibition will be followed, on July 6, 7 and 8, by the London Graduate Recruitment Fair. More than 250 educational, vocational and training institutions are exhibiting.

Further information: Justine Meloy, News International Exhibitions, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9KY. Phone: 071 782 6393, fax: 071 782 6870.

Czech shoe industry starts a long march back to market

The plant where Bata was born is battling to overcome the legacy of communism and get fit for privatisation. Ross Tieman reports

In 1994, Tomas Bata set up a modest shoe factory in the small Moravian town of Zlín, in what is now the eastern part of the Czech Republic.

Although still within the Austro-Hungarian empire, what became Czechoslovakia was rapidly becoming a leading European industrial centre. The workers needed shoes. Tomas and his brother and sister provided them, using skills learned from their father, the local cobbler. But as the company prospered, Tomas Bata quickly demonstrated that he was no mere tradesman. He started designing and manufacturing machines to speed up the shoemaking process.

Tens of employees became hundreds and then thousands. To house the burgeoning workforce, Bata built a model town in the manner of Cadbury at Bourville, or Lever Brothers at Port Sunlight. After Czechoslovakia emerged as an independent state, he added a hospital, schools, and sporting facilities. A power station was built to supply the factories and the town with electricity; coalmines were bought to fuel the boilers. The company expanded into vehicle tyres and even aircraft.

Bata travelled the world in a restless search for innovations to put his business at the forefront of technology. During a visit to America, he even worked on a Ford production line. As he travelled, he set up distribution outlets, then factories. Bata became a Czech hero and a household name around the globe. In 1932, however, he was killed in a plane crash.

His son, also called Tomas, was only 21, too young to succeed him. It was Hugo Vavrečka, grandfather of Václav Havel, the present Czech president, who oversaw completion of Bata's model factory, designed by a Czech architect in collaboration with Le Corbusier.

Vavrečka moved up and down the 18-storey building in an extraordinary 18 ft-square chairman's office-cum-lift, with windows on two sides, equipped with desk, telephone, and sink (for this was a factory where the boss was willing to roll his sleeves up).

By 1938, Bata had become one of the world's first true multinational companies, with subsidiaries in 40 countries, from the Congo to the United States. But war was looming. So in that year, the young Tomas was sent to Toronto to set up a new plant. When Hitler's armies occupied the whole of Czechoslovakia in March 1939, Tomas, at the age of 28, took control of the worldwide Bata empire.

Back in Zlín, the Bata factories were harassed to the German war effort. They largely escaped damage in the second world war, but in 1947 the business was nationalised and renamed Svít.

Under the communist regime installed by the Russians the following year, Svít became shoemaker to the



Hands-on: the Zlín factory is old-fashioned, but labour is cheap

new empire of the east. The company's founder was revered as an evil capitalist. Instead of responding to the demands of its salesmen, Svít got its orders from ministry men, in line with the state economic plan. Innovation did not stop, but it slowed. Workers put in their hours, and kept their ideas to themselves.

Czechoslovakia's "velvet revolution" of 1989 destroyed that routine for good. Like the rest of Czech industry, Svít again has to earn its place in a competitive world. The challenges are daunting.

From the outside, the factory looks little different from that which the young Tomas Bata left in 1938. Packed on to a 96-acre site are 180 buildings, rising storey upon storey like office blocks. They are linked by heating ducts, and even a little cable car. It looks like an oversized example of the kind of West Midlands industrial site swept away by the recession of the early 1980s.

Grimy windows spill light into galleries cluttered with racks and shoe boxes, where women cut out the leather

panels for shoes and sew them together. Pot plants and magazine photographs of country scenes, taped to walls and racks, give the place a homely feel. A Michael Jackson tape blares from the loudspeakers overhead.

It is old-fashioned, but not hopelessly so. Shoemaking is a labour-intensive business. Where synthetic materials permit their use, German cutting machines with American computer controls are at work. Injection moulding machines putting soles on training shoes are equally up-to-date. According to Jaroslav Stoklasa, a Svít executive, productivity and quality are the least of the company's problems.

Low labour costs provide a cushion against the superior efficiency of western rivals. There are 8,500 workers in Svít's shoe business, 60 per cent of them women. On average, they earn only 4,500 koruna a month, or £102. Svít's competition comes from the Far East and, to date, the enterprise is holding its ground.

The real difficulties stem from the

need to adapt to a free market. "We not only produce shoes," Mr Stoklasa said. "We must have a power station, we must supply heating for homes, we must produce new machines, we must repair them and until now, we had to run the transport. So we must change it to make several smaller enterprises which will be independent, so that we can concentrate on the production of shoes."

Restructuring to focus on a core business is a familiar idea to any western manager. But here it is made a dozen times more difficult by the primitive state of the republic's accounting techniques and newly created company law. The restructuring, to be completed this year, will provide the basis for a "project", or business plan, to enable the enterprise to be privatised.

Equally critical is the race to find new markets. Output of shoes fell nearly 30 per cent during 1992, to 15 million pairs. Under the old regime, a third of production was sold in Czechoslovakia, a third for hard currency, and a third went to the former Soviet Union.

But payments from Russia have dried up, with \$40 million outstanding. Deliveries to the East have been halted. Exports to the West are up, but the going is tough. After 40 years without a marketing department, Svít is out of touch with fickle consumer tastes. Ironically, it is Tomas Bata, the founder's son, now almost 80, who has thrown Svít a lifeline.

Bata returned to a personal welcome from President Havel 18 months ago, to witness the repurchase by the Bata group of one of Svít's plants and a chain of state shoe stores. With 70,000 employees in 65 countries and an annual output of 300 million pairs of shoes, Bata dwarfs its former parent.

The Canadian group is helping Svít to survive by employing the Zlín works as a sub-contractor. Links have also been forged with Salamander, a German shoe manufacturer. Understanding which designs are sold by these partners' marketing experts, and why, will be crucial to the success of Svít's ambition to develop its own brands.

So is increased flexibility. The big production runs of yore are gone for good. Agility in production planning will need more computers, new skills and, eventually, a more efficient plant layout. Faced with comparable difficulties in the 1980s, many managers in Britain's Midlands took the best of their plant and people and moved them into modern, spacious single-storey buildings nearby.

Svít's managers will probably have to do the same. Once the Czech economy starts growing again, and wage rates harden, they will have little choice.

Mr Stoklasa had no doubt that Svít will survive and prosper. "Our shoes are popular in the world because they are of relatively good quality and last long," he said.

He might have added that they are also cheap. For now, low wages benefit Svít. They keep down costs, and purchasing power. A pair of Church brogues from Northampton sell in Bata's Westcass Square store for 7,990 koruna; a serviceable pair of Svít shoes can be had for less than a tenth of that amount.

There remain many people in the Czech Republic for whom western brands and stylistic fads remain an unaffordable luxury.

TEMPUS

Demerger doubts

THE management of Zeneca is well prepared for its worldwide roadshow to promote the ICI demerger. David Barnes, chief executive, and his colleagues present a compelling argument of the benefits. The split will divide ICI's bulk, undifferentiated businesses, where the key to success is driving down costs, from its high margin, proprietary products where research and development rules supreme. Once separated, the management of each company will be free to pursue its priorities.

This argument naturally fails to mention the financial benefit the plan originally offered, of deparing the bulk chemicals by issuing shares in Zeneca at a drug company rating. That argument fell apart after the sector's fall from grace early this year. A rights issue from unified ICI could today raise the necessary £1.3 billion with less dilution.

Demerger advocates also have difficulty explaining why a full demerger was necessary, since the operational benefits could have been achieved through a simple reorgan-

isation, like the separation that occurred last year. If nothing else, this would have saved £75 million in demerger costs and tens of thousands of hours of management time.

The ICI demerger creates one cash-hungry business whose future depends on the consistent quality of its R&D. A series of failures in clinical testing could see earnings tumble. It also creates a cash-generative business that is exposed to the violent cycles of the European chemicals market, however successful its cost reduction programme. There was no accident in the two parts of ICI growing up together. The cash thrown off by the chemicals business in the boom was invested in non-cyclical business whose profits could tide the group through recession.

ICI and its advisers were determined to bludgeon the demerger through from its inception, so it is perhaps futile to have doubts now. The ICI share price suggests investors are receiving the glossily presented message enthusiastically. May they remain that way.

Chase Manhattan

THE decision by Chase Manhattan to accelerate the disposal of a \$2 billion property loan portfolio has frightened implications for the American property market. The bank believes that the market is suffering from structural oversupply and is prepared to write off loans and assets worth \$884 million just to dump its portfolio as fast as possible.

Admittedly, banks are rarely the best judge of any market. Too often they buy at the top and sell at the bottom.

Many lenders sold their Third World debt portfolios at less than 40 cents in the dollar three years ago, before prices doubled.

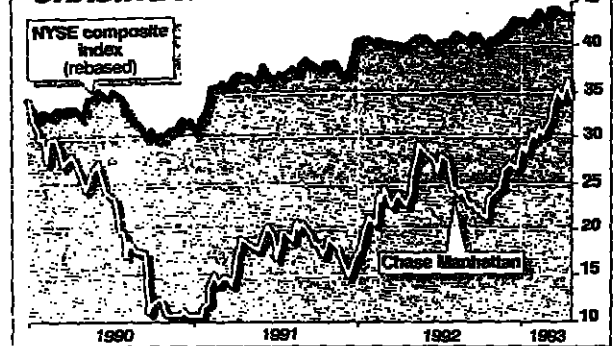
Chase's argument still has considerable logic. Cost-cutting by American corporations has fallen heavily on

white collar staff. A fifth of all office space in northeast America is unrented, while many more millions of square feet are leased but empty. It will take years, even decades of economic growth to create demand for this space. The parallels with the London property market are strong. There is another reason for the bank's decision to cut and run. The disposal will

reduce its exposure to property below 100 per cent of net assets. This, combined with the \$750 million share offer, should restore its credit rating.

Chase is understandably risk averse, preferring fee-earning business such as corporate finance. Potential customers demand a high debt rating and want to see no legacy of past lending mistakes.

CHASING A BETTER RATING



Budgens

THE City paused in wonder last week when a £16 billion German supermarket chain bought into a small and unsuccessful British food retailer less than 2 per cent its size. The intentions behind Rewe Group's acquisition of a 26.3 per cent stake in Budgens are hard to fathom.

The struggling supermarket group has been stranded between the big chains and the discounters. Its smaller high street shops have been left to pick up the crumbs of trade between consumers' weekly shopping trips to out-of-town supermarkets. Now, it finds even this niche under threat as the likes of Tesco, Sainsbury and Safeway have started to refurbish their high street sites.

Last year, 800,000 sq ft of competitive space was opened near one of Budgens' outlets in the South East - the whole group has only 600,000 sq ft.

The effects of this competi-

tion are all too clear. Sales fell 1.6 per cent at the interim stage in the current year. Despite the achievements of John Von Spreckelsen, the chief executive, in reducing costs, it is still unclear whether there is a permanent place on the high street for Budgens, with or without Rewe's help.

Jupiter Tyndall

THE explosive growth demonstrated last week in the figures from Jupiter Tyndall, the banking and fund management group, may have pleased the City, but shareholders should not expect more of the same this year.

The five-fold rise in Jupiter's profits was mainly the product of its all-share acquisition of the Tyndall Group in 1991. The acquisition has turned out to be a bargain and this, combined with cost-cutting, trebled earnings to 13.6p a share.

The City, however, is interested in Jupiter's more recent

acquisition, the poaching of Leonard Light from Mercury Asset Management for a £1 million golden hello and a £600,000 salary.

Mr Licht could not have arrived at a more important time. The group's two off-shore banks, which provide half the profit, are exposed to the fall in interest rates.

Jupiter needs to expand its £1.1 billion equity funds, and hopes Mr Licht can attract the large, profitable pension funds. He brought in £100 million soon after arriving, but fees from that are only a fraction of its running costs.

Jupiter, naturally, is pitching for business wherever it can, but the pension fund managers are unlikely to be impressed about the size of Mr Licht's salary, particularly since they will be paying it.

At £600,000 a year, it is equivalent to the financing costs of a £10 million acquisition, no small sum for a company that is capitalised at only £55 million. He has yet to prove he is worth it.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Girobank was first to set up telephone banking

From the managing director of Girobank

Sir, You reported (April 12) that Abbey National is to launch a pilot telephone banking service.

It really comes as no surprise to find Abbey and other banks turning their attention away from their branch network in favour of direct service delivery systems. Quite evidently, however, your correspondent was unaware that in 1986, Girobank was the first to see the future of retail banking when it set up regional Telephone Banking centres. Today 1.5 million personal customers (far more than the 350,000 quoted for one of our competitors) make more than 100,000 calls a week, seeking anything from

general enquiries, to arranging a personal loan. Customer satisfaction levels are very high.

There really is little need for many people to get non-cash services like this from a branch. The telephone is available in everyone and the mail is quick and reliable for any papers that need a signature. Research shows that customers prefer the telephone for routine transactions, it also shows that although most financial transactions are carried out between 10 am and 4 pm the majority of people would like a service which operates between 5 pm and 7 pm.

Girobank Telecare meets this demand by being available from 8.30 am until 8.30 pm on weekdays (and

until 2 pm on Saturdays). Twenty-four-hour telephone banking is convenient for a minority, and Girobank is looking at it as an option, but we would need to be convinced it was cost-effective.

Telephones cannot deliver cash, of course, but there are more cash machines in the UK than in any other country in Europe. As bank branch networks contract, particularly as branches in smaller communities close, telephone banking, supported by convenient availability of cash, will provide the answer for an increasing number of people.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS J. EVANS,
Managing Director,
Girobank Plc,
49 Park Lane, W1.

Competition for BT

From John Mackay and Tiro Clarke

Sir, We read with some amusement your article (April 16) on British Telecom (BT) and AT&T's reciprocal applications to operate in each other's home markets.

Is BT aware that competing in the US will entail matching and exceeding the high levels of service and quality currently set by the competition, of which AT&T is a part? In the US, BT will not enjoy its present status as a self-serving monopoly acting in a complacent market.

Our experience using telecommunications systems in both markets indicates that BT may find a stoical and arrogant attitude towards service somewhat of a hindrance when trying to attract North American customers. Radical changes in this attitude necessary for the neophyte BT to compete in the US will obviously be funded by BT's captive British "customers".

On the other hand, given a level playing field in the UK, AT&T, hopefully followed by additional competition, would introduce to British consumers quality and service they currently do not enjoy. Enhancing competition in the UK would educate BT and benefit the British consumers.

Only if and when BT learns to compete in their home market will they be prepared to venture abroad.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MACKAY and
TIRO CLARKE,
25 The Avenue, Durham.

Letters to the
Business and Finance
section of The Times
can be sent
by fax on
071-782 5112.

Opting for scrip

From Mr Peter W. Heath

Sir, Mr Mitchell (April 20) is both emotive and wrong to talk of "the insidious effect of progressive dilution" where a shareholder opts for dividend, or cash alternative, in lieu of a scrip dividend. The shareholder has simply sold his rights entitlement for money. Whether he was wise or foolish to lighten his holding depends on how the company performs in the future.

Whether directors should aim at low payout with high internal reinvestment, or high payout and rights issues to finance expansion, is indeed a vexed question. An annual choice of money or shares should properly focus every shareholder's mind on this vital conundrum.

Yours faithfully,
PETER W. HEATH,
10 Marina Court Avenue,
Boxhill-on-Sea, East Sussex.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

DAN RUSSEL

(a) Dan is an Old English contraction of the Latin dominus lord, hence an honourable title such as Master. Sir: Russel is the same as russel, ie rusty-red; hence a fox. The Nun's Priest's Tale, by Dan Chaucer. "And Dan Russel the fox stire up at ones." Dan's affected application to poets appears to be after Spenser's "Dan Chaucer". Tenyson: "Dan Chaucer, the first warbler."

WALER

(b) A horse imported from Australia, especially New South Wales, whence its name; Kipling, *Plain Tales from the Hills*: "The Drum-Horse is nearly always a big piebald Waler."

CAPTAIN SWING

(c) A mythical chief of those who promoted the Swing Riots in the southern counties (1830-33), resulting from the distressed condition of the agricultural labourers, and touched off by the introduction of new threshing machines which threatened to aggravate their situation. Menacing letters were sent to farmers, the machines were smashed, and riots fired, and Captain Swing became the bogey of the terrified countryfolk.

BEZONIAN

(d) A raw recruit, hence (as a term of contempt) a needy beggar or base fellow, from the Italian *bezonio* needy. Spanish soldiers sent to Italy ill-equipped and ill-trained were scornfully called *bezoniens*. Shakespeare, *Henry V*: "Great men off die by vile bezoniens." A chapter heading in *The Affair* by C. P. Snow is "Under which king, Bezonian?"

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

White lured the black queen to an unfortunate square with 1 Bc7 Qx7 2 Nxd5 Qd8 3 Nxe7 Qxe7 4 Qxd5 and white won.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

As ye sow, so shall ye reap

DAVID Bell is to take early retirement from the TSB Group at the end of this month, after four years as personnel controller overseeing the redundancies of 5,000 staff. Bell's departure follows hard on publication of a letter in which he criticised government policy on unemployment as "sharing work by paying three million people to do nothing while the rest of us work". His letter continued: "Reducing staff may improve a company's productivity but it does nothing at all for national productivity unless those made redundant find other work... After the last election I and other personnel people worried by several aspects of the employment scene as it has developed under the Tories, formed a group to consider such issues. We plan to start with unemployment..." Bell was not available for comment, but Graham Wallace, TSB's head of media relations, denies his early retirement was connected with the letter. "That is his viewpoint and he is quite entitled to a personal view on the issue," Wallace says. "The early retirement is for personal reasons, and it is not appropriate to discuss with people outside the organisation." Maybe Bell just wants to spend more time with his group, whose members could well include ex-TSB staff.

ties analyst, has left the newly-named UBS Ltd to become head of UK research at Hoare Govett. Brown, who joined UBS three years ago after stints at James Capel and Kleinwort Benson, was at Hoare on Friday negotiating his contract. His start date has yet to be decided, although it is unlikely he will be back at his UBS desk today. Now in charge of 40 analysts, he will report directly to Nigel Hughes-Smith, overall head of research, and Simon Clogg, managing director of Hoare Govett Securities.

Passing the hat

CITY firms, used to raising billions of pounds, have been given a smaller challenge: Charterhouse is asking 20 firms to raise £1,000 each by September 30 to help ease the plight of the young homeless. So far 11 have signed up for the 1993 Charterhouse City Challenge, including Cazenove, James Capel, Hambros and Coopers & Lybrand. The

£20,000 raised will go to the Rainer Foundation, a charity for young City homeless founded in 1876. Events planned so far by the entrants include charity bike rides, sweepstakes, staff party collections and scaling the Old Man of Hoy in the Shetlands.

CITY media analysts, paid well to read between the lines, have long regarded The Daily Telegraph as a newspaper to be taken seriously, particularly since the profits started rolling in under Conrad Black. But on Friday the newspaper group unknowingly inspired some mirth in the Square Mile when its annual report landed on analysts' desks. The envelopes were stamped: "Read The Guardian today".

Ferry fast

UNDER fire for speedier disembarkment to his staff and on his City promises than to the struggling masses of eastern and central Europe, Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank last week cited a Baltic joint venture as a model of how fast his organisation could work. The bank went from application for funds to disbursement in a week on a deal involving a Swedish ferry company and Estonian interests. But Attali failed to mention the symbolism in the ship deal. There is an old Estonian saying that "freedom comes in a white ship from the West". Naturally, the bank made sure the ship was painted white.

Room for more

THE exodus continues at Bell Lawrie White, TSB's former Scottish broking arm, which

has been plagued by resignations since Brian Dolphin, the London private client business, acquired it. Two more disgruntled Bell Lawrie employees have jumped ship for Greig Middleton, which is planning to open up in Edinburgh. Adam Forsyth, an electricity and utilities analyst, soon joins Greig, hot on the heels of David Campbell, another Bell Lawrie utilities analyst who started at Greig in Glasgow last week. Wags at Harry's Bar, the local watering hole, have it that Ian Nairn, the finance director, will also soon turn up at Greig.

I'm Chevy, fly me

A NEW way of snaring passengers, without an all-out fare war, has taken off among airlines in the US. Discount fares are being offered with a range of products and services - buyers of Chevrolet Chevy Caprice cars can now fuel two free return tickets to any destination covered by Northwest Airlines; luggage worth \$99 from department store J C Penney can save \$50 on an American Airlines ticket; while those who get their cash from cashpoints in the stores of Sears, Target and 7-Eleven, can get up to 35 per cent off an advanced fare with America West. But the airlines are anxious to avoid another Hoover debacle, and are particularly keen to sidestep last year's problem at Delta Airlines, which offered 3,000 international tickets in a lottery. It had 10 million entries and had to use an electric leaf blower to mix them up before picking the winners.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK



Attali: Baltic deal

Main man

HATS off to the latest rising star in the City, Malcolm Brown, a top-rated UK utili-

حسنة من الاموال

stuttgart
place
ffered to
Martin

- BBC1**
- 8.00 Breakfast (15881)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (32703607)
 - 9.05 A Word In Your Ear. Verbal communication challenge with Dave Willetts, Gloria McKay, Tom O'Connor and Liz Kershaw (s) (1666084) 9.35 King of the Road. Ross King and Anna Walker go to Bradford (s) (2132012)
 - 10.00 News (3275201) 10.05 Regional News & Weather (s) (1778355)
 - 10.30 Good Morning With Anne and Nick. Magazine with Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) (8848698)
 - 12.05 Pebble Mill. Chat with Judi Spiers (s) (4001888)
 - 12.45 Good Morning With Anne and Nick. The morning's events reviewed (s) (14580152) 12.55 Regional News & Weather (37689978)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News with Edward Stouton (CeeFax), Weather (59152) 1.30 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (11865607)
 - 1.50 Eldorado (s) (CeeFax) (s) (18315794)
 - 2.20 Dallas (s) (CeeFax) (1794510)
 - 3.10 Turnabout. Word quiz game with Rob Culling in the chair (s) (8316572)
 - 3.40 Drury Court. (8784775) 3.45 Bananaman (s) (8783048) 3.50 Chucklevision (s) (s) (5149510)
 - 4.10 The All New Popeye Show (s) (7827341)
 - 4.10 The Boy From Andromeda (s) (CeeFax) (7875878)
 - 4.55 Newsround (7861881) 5.05 Blue Peter (CeeFax) (s) (7613411)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (s) (CeeFax) (s) (5253539), Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stewart (CeeFax), Weather (249)
 - 6.30 Regional News. Magazines (201), Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 - 7.00 Eldorado (CeeFax) (s) (9220)



Dr Barry Brewster examines a patient (7.30pm)

- 7.30 The Doctor. Second of six documentaries following a team of GPs in Yorkshire (s) (CeeFax) (713)
- 8.00 Bruce's Guest Night. Mr Forsyth with guests including American ventriloquist Ronn Lucas and actor/producer Howard Keel (CeeFax) (s) (5268)
- 8.30 Waiting For Mr. Amble. Comedy about old folks with attitudes. Stephanie Cole and Graham Crowden head the cast (s) (CeeFax) (4773)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk (CeeFax) followed by regional news and weather (2639)
- 9.30 Panorama: Dumping Granny. A report on why some families feel forced to abandon their elderly relatives (186317)
- 10.10 Film 93 With Barry Norman. New releases given the Norman treatment include *Alive* and *Loaded Weapon 1*, while limited releases such as John Cleese's *Kenneth Branagh* and Alan Parker comment on the plight of the British film industry (s) (859139), Northern Ireland: Market Forces
- 10.40 Cagney and Lacey. Sharon Glass and Tyne Daly as the women cops (s) (CeeFax) (214589), Northern Ireland: 10.50 Film 93 11.20 Cagney and Lacey
- 11.25 Germany Means Business. The Düsseldorf Deadline. The inside story of the Düsseldorf Show, one of many trade fairs vital to German commerce (s) (446528)
- 11.55 Weather (108210). Ends at 12.00. Northern Ireland: 12.05am-12.35 Germany Means Business
- 2.15am-2.45 BBC Select: Executive Business Club. Scrambled (93805)

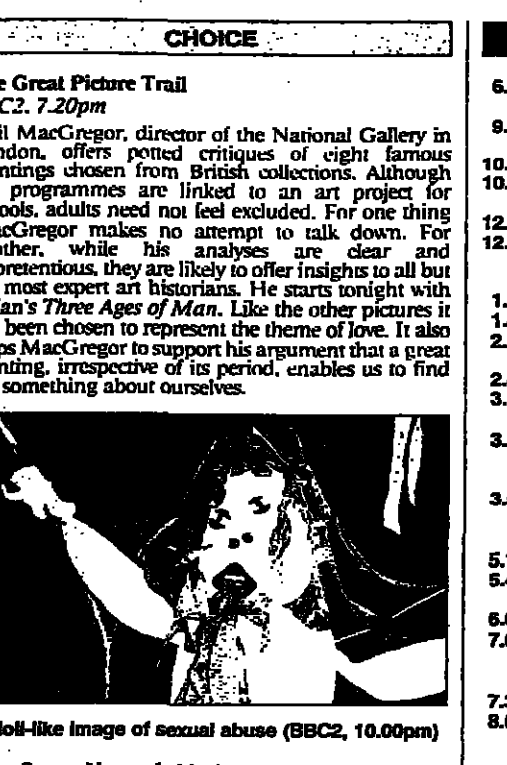
- BBC2**
- 7.10 Open University. Ancient Athens - The Theatre and the State (577171) 7.35 Decision Making in the NHS: A Woman's Hospital?
 - 8.00 Breakfast News (8667775)
 - 8.15 Westminster (8660836)
 - 8.30 Grand Prix. Highlights of yesterday's San Marino Grand Prix from Imola (s) (26775)
 - 9.00 Daytime On Two. Educational programmes, including for children, 9.45 Storytime (s) (2265978) 1.20 Fiddley Foodie Bird (s) (1355591) 1.30 Spider (s) (82604572) 1.35 Phony House (s) (26361)
 - 2.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (6084978), 2.05 Storytime (s) (1501420)
 - 2.15 Regional Westminster Programmes (s) (899152), Northern Ireland: Gardens By Design
 - 2.45 World Snooker (s) (687152)
 - 3.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (8363607) followed by 3.05 Praline (s) (CeeFax) (s) (3716884)
 - 3.40 World Snooker. Continuing coverage of the day's play at Sheffield (s) (8548404) including 3.50 News, weather and regional bulletins
 - 6.00 The Addams Family. Cult 1960s Gothic comedy (s) (s) (800393)
 - 6.25 DEF II beginning with The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air. American west coast comedy (328012), 6.50 Standing Room Only. The irreverent soccer show includes an item on how schoolboys are being physically damaged by too much football (s) (281442)



In the picture: Neil MacGregor (7.20pm)

- 7.20 The Great Picture Trail (CeeFax). See Choice (173715)
- 7.30 Soundbites. Violinist Anne Akiko Meyers plays a Prokofiev piece and trombonist Christian Lindberg performs a work by Jan Sandstrom in the last of the present series (s) (355)
- 8.00 Horizon. Molecules with Sunglasses. Graphite and diamond were long considered the only two possible forms of pure carbon. Then laser scientists chanced upon "Buckminsterfullerene". A fascinating account of the efforts to reproduce a molecule that chemistry said could not exist (s) (CeeFax) (s) (812133)
- 8.50 Lancelotti. Lancelotti. Alphabet of Britain. A Victorian jeweller in Leeds fits the bill for the letter "D" (s) (CeeFax) (s) (201046)
- 9.00 World Snooker. Key frames from the last of the second-round matches (s) (1775)
- 10.00 Open Space (CeeFax). See Choice (21220)
- 10.30 Newswatch with Peter Snow (216317)
- 11.15 World Snooker. Highlights of the evening's play (s) (378429) 11.55 World Snooker (s) (20022)
- 12.00am Writers In The 30s: Left of Centre. Naomi Mitchison, Stephen Spender and Julian Symons recall issues they found important in the 1930s (2833195). Ends at 12.25

VideoPlus and the Video PlusCodes. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These numbers, which are used by the Video Plus system, can be used with most video recorders. To find out more about the Video Plus system, see the Video PlusCodes section on page 10 of the TV Times. For more details on the Video Plus system, see the Video PlusCodes section on page 10 of the TV Times. For more details on the Video Plus system, see the Video PlusCodes section on page 10 of the TV Times.



A doll-like image of sexual abuse (BBC2, 10.00pm)

Open Space: Unspeakable Acts
BBC2, 10.00pm

The late scheduling reflects the sensitivity of the subject. Sexual assaults against women are usually perpetrated by men. Frances Allam uses the viewer access programme to reveal that the culprits can be other women. Herself a victim, she was unable to prosecute because she became a prostitute for anonymity. For the same reason she does not appear before the camera here. Her film includes other testimonies from women who have suffered sexual abuse, either from mothers or grandmothers or from lesbian partners. Because sexual violence is considered a male preserve, such women find difficulty even getting themselves believed. And if they do, there are no support services to turn to.

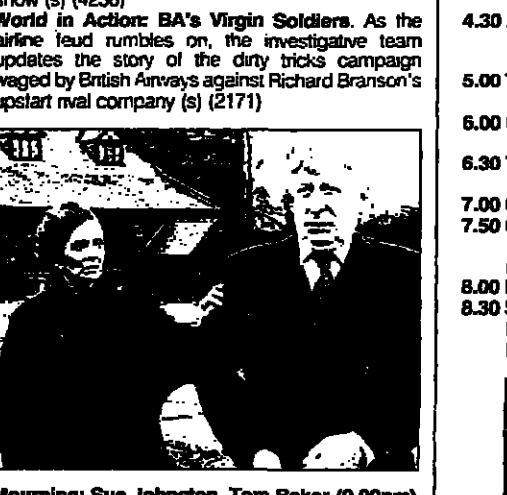
Channels of Resistance: Distress Signals
Channel 4, 10.55pm

A season of documentaries about the state of world television argues the global spread of the small screen is a threat to cultural and political diversity. Tonight's film, *Distress Signals*, introduces the theme by examining the international dominance of the United States. It is all about economics. Producers can recoup their costs in the home market and sell their programmes abroad at astonishingly low prices. Zimbabwe buys *Miami Vice* because it is much cheaper than locally-made drama. But the campaign for indigenous television is growing. The French film director Bertrand Tavernier is disturbed that "two or three guys in Hollywood or New York can impose their views on the world more than any politician".

Naked Sport: Be Like Mike
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Michael Jordan may not be a household name here but good judges in the United States reckon that he is the greatest basketball player in the history of the game. His earnings are phenomenal. He makes \$4 million a year from playing and several times that amount from endorsing products such as Nike shoes and McDonald's fast food. Handsome, gifted and controversial, he has become a role model for young American blacks. But this transcendent film suggests that Jordan's success, and the way it is being packaged, may only create false dreams. The case of Skip Dillard is offered as a warning. A basketball star at school, he failed at the higher level and drifted into drugs and crime.

- CHOICE**
- The Great Picture Trail (BBC2, 7.20pm)
 - Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery in London, offers potted critiques of eight famous paintings chosen from British collections. Although the programmes are linked to an art project for schools, adults need not feel excluded. For one thing MacGregor makes no attempt to talk down. For another, while his analyses are clear and unpretentious, they are likely to offer insights to all but the most expert art historians. He starts tonight with Titian's *Three Ages of Man*. Like the other pictures it has been chosen to represent the theme of love. It also has MacGregor to support his argument that a great painting, irrespective of its period, enables us to find out something about ourselves.



Mourning: Sue Johnston, Tom Baker (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Medics. Final episode of the hospital drama serial starring Tom Baker and Sue Johnston. As Jess and Alex make plans for the future, Prof Hoyt tries to come to terms with the death of his wife (Teletext) (2201)
- 10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald (Teletext) and weather (25046) 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (755733)
- 10.40 Film: The Next Man (1976). Romantic spy thriller in which Sean Connery plays a Middle-Eastern diplomat at the UN fending off assassination attempts. It is not one of Connery's most memorable roles. Directed by Richard C. Sarafin (38384572)
- 12.40am The Beat. Would-be trendy music and film show (s) (2610350)
- 1.40 Sport AM featuring golf from Spain, North American ice hockey and European soccer (4308824)
- 2.40 Sissy Minkus. American news (8215992)
- 3.30 Newsnight. Tonight's clothes and style report looks at the work of "radical" designers (53244)
- 4.00 Hollywood Report (s) (s) (84737)
- 4.30 Cinema. Cinema. Cinema. US movie news (s) (53718)
- 5.30 Riviera. French drama serial (31008)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (53669). Ends at 6.00

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.15 Love Luey (b/w). Vintage American comedy starring Lucille Ball, playing herself with gusto in this episode she develops a deep voice after meeting Orson Welles (s) (85084)
 - 6.45 Spiff and Hercules. Whimsical animation (5218201)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast. The ubiquitous Angus Deayton is the day's special guest as Gaby Roslin and Chris Evans present the anarchic early morning magazine show (43775)
 - 9.00 You Bet Your Life. Bill Cosby hosts an archetypal American game show (s) (35423)
 - 9.30 Schools (53837)
 - 12.00 Right To Reply. Viewers are given a chance to make their feelings known (s) (Teletext) (s) (22958)
 - 12.30 Sesame Street. American children's show with an educational content. Paul Simon makes a guest appearance today (s) (78317)
 - 1.30 Chicken Minute. More entertainment for children (s) (51512)
 - 2.00 Film: The Moon Is Down (1943, b/w). John Stenbeck's powerful story of wartime resistance to the Nazis in Norway was adapted and produced by Munnally Johnson. Sensitively played by actors of the calibre of Cedric Hardwicke, Henry Travers and Lee J. Cobb, it was a superior example of the morale-boosting Allied propaganda pieces of the time. Directed by Irving Pichel, who also appears (838012)
 - 3.40 An Artist Looks at Churches. A 1959 short film providing an artist's view of places of worship (in 2773713)
 - 3.55 Grow Your Greens. Re-run of Friday's programme telling you all you ever wanted to know about onions (s) (Teletext) (9810249)
 - 4.30 Fifteen To One. Another 15 contestants battle for general knowledge supremacy in the quick-fire knock-out quiz competition (Teletext) (s) (784)
 - 5.00 The Late Late Show. Gay Byrne's music and topical chat show from Dublin (s) (1201)
 - 6.00 Children's Ward. Hospital drama previously shown on ITV (s) (859)
 - 6.30 The Cosby Show. Sugary American family comedy (s) (Teletext) (539)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (597442)
 - 7.50 Comment. Andrew Roberts explains why he would like to see the Foreign Office replaced by a fax machine (171046)
 - 8.00 Brookside (Teletext) (s) (8978)
 - 8.30 Sunlight. Musical comedy with Nichola McAuliffe as the surgical with a tongue as sharp as her scalpel (s) (Teletext) (8323)



On the basketball: Michael Jordan (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Naked Sport (Teletext) (s). See Choice (9171)
- 10.00 Northern Exposure. Offbeat American serial with elements of quirky humour mixed seamlessly into the drama (s) (952779)
- 10.55 Channels of Resistance. See Choice (2353572)
- 12.00am States of America. Christopher Hitchens presents the last of a series of debates about the way ahead for the USA under President Clinton. Will Clinton's ideology have a revolutionary effect and, if so, will it be a good or a bad thing for the world's last superpower? Former presidential candidate Gary Hart and Betsy Wright, one of the president's advisers, are among those taking part in the discussion (13802). Ends at 1.00

- VARIATIONS**
- ANGLIA**
- As London except: 2.15-2.45 Van Can Cook (89378) 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (136228) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (801987) 6.45-7.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 7.00-7.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 7.30-8.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 8.00-8.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 8.30-9.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 9.00-9.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 9.30-10.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 10.00-10.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 10.30-11.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 11.00-11.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 11.30-12.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 12.00-12.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 12.30-1.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 1.00-1.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 1.30-2.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 2.00-2.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 2.30-3.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 3.00-3.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 3.30-4.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 4.00-4.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 4.30-5.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 5.00-5.30 The Young Doctors (136228) 5.30-6.00 The Young Doctors (136228) 6.00-6.30 The 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Shattered City defies the bombers

■ Half the offices bombed in the City were empty and stockbrokers said they would not suffer even though several streets will remain closed for some time

BY NEIL BENNETT

DOZENS of banks and broking firms worked round the clock throughout the weekend to ensure they would be open for business today after Sir Francis McWilliams, the Lord Mayor of London, vowed the City would "carry on regardless" of the IRA bomb attack.

The Corporation of London helped banks to find office space after their premises were destroyed in the blast. National Westminster Bank and the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank arranged alternative locations for staff yesterday and pledged that their service would not be disrupted.

British Rail cleared 200 tonnes of glass and rubble from the roof of Liverpool Street Station to ensure it could open at 5 o'clock this morning and enable tens of thousands of City workers to reach their desks as normal. British Telecom worked with the corporation and firms affected by the bomb to divert telephone lines and install equipment in temporary offices.

The Lord Mayor condemned the IRA for the attack. "This is pointless destruction," he said. "People are being killed and disrupted for no good reason. Our objective is to get people back to work as quickly as possible."

Sir Francis pledged that the bomb would not damage the City's position as Europe's premier financial centre. "Terrorism is a worldwide fact of life," he said. "This is a temporary disruption and we can cope with it. London is still the place to do business."

Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, the chairman of the Stock Exchange, said he held people who resorted to terrorism in contempt. "I am absolutely horrified at the injuries suffered by innocent people. There will be some inconvenience suffered by the City on Monday, but no loss of efficiency. We are determined there will be no easy victory for terrorism."

By a stroke of luck, as many as half the offices caught in the blast were unoccupied, owing to the slump in the property market. Both the former Hambros Bank building and the former Standard Chartered building in Bishopsgate were largely empty. Not a

The Hongkong Bank, the

Security calls, page 1
City bomb, pages 2 and 3
Leading article, page 17

Bishopsgate offices of which were almost demolished by the full force of the bomb, was also fortunate, since it had moved many of its staff out of the building only last week into its new London headquarters by the Thames. The Bishopsgate office has suffered heavy structural damage and is likely to be demolished.

The bank quickly made arrangements to move the remaining 600 staff in the building, who run the trade finance and corporate banking arms, into three other sites around the City. Only half of the staff are being asked to report for work today, but the bank expects to be back at full strength within a week.

NatWest said its tower had only suffered superficial, not structural damage and could be repaired. Until then, the 1,777 staff affected are being moved to other locations in the City. The tower houses the head office of the UK retail bank and some international banking operations.

"We are assessing the full extent of the damage, which is substantially worse than last year," said Derek Wanless, the chief executive. "The clean-up process has already begun." The tower lost more than 100 windows a year ago; this time,



Heart of the devastation: firms that lost their premises in the Bishopsgate blast have been found emergency accommodation over the weekend

hardly a window or a ceiling has remained intact. Staff have been asked to call the bank on 0800 400490 for instructions.

NatWest quickly made alternative arrangements for its annual meeting, which was to have been held in the tower tomorrow. The venue has been switched to the Whitbread Brewery, Chiswell Street, half a mile away.

Several bank branches were badly damaged by the explosion, but the banks insisted that no customer records had been lost, since they are all

kept on back-up computers outside the City. A Midland branch at the bottom of the Hongkong Bank building was completely destroyed, while Barclays and Lloyds will each have two branches shut this morning as they are cleared.

The corporation and the Bank of England also worked together to ensure that dozens of overseas banks could find new accommodation. Barings was the only major merchant bank to be badly damaged. Others, such as SG Warburg and Morgan Grenfell, said

they had suffered only slightly and would be opening for business as usual.

Japanese businesses were affected particularly badly. Tokai Bank, Mitsubishi Corporation and Long Term Credit Bank of Japan all lost their offices. The National Bank of Abu Dhabi and Saudi International Bank were also looking for new premises.

One of the most unfortunate casualties of the blast was Close Brothers, the merchant bank, which was also devastated last year. Like other firms, it had made contingency plans

and last night set up new offices in a cellar nicknamed "The Bunker", near London Bridge station. Rod Kent, the managing director, pledged the bank could still deal with its clients, but was forced to hire a horse box to bring a consignment of desks from Newbury, Berkshire.

Specialist firms immediately offered the banks emergency facilities to cope with the disruption. Emergency Dealing Services had two dealing rooms, in the City and in Docklands, ready for use, with enough space for 60 traders.

Reuters and Telerate also worked through the weekend providing equipment to ensure that firms could deal in their new locations.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, said in statement: "I have every confidence that businesses will continue to locate here and work successfully here. To do otherwise would be to succumb to terrorism, which is a threat, not just in Britain, but internationally. The government is playing its part by acting as reinsurer of the last resort."

The Chancellor added that

he was confident the City would shrug off the effects of the outrage. "London is the financial capital, not just of Britain, but of Europe, and indeed the world."

The prime minister expressed his admiration for the City's "business as usual" stance in a telephone call to the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Francis McWilliams. "The Prime Minister and I agreed that the best way to frustrate the terrorists is to have the City back at work tomorrow and we are working hard to ensure that it is," said Sir Francis.

Terrorism premiums likely to rise by up to 50%

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

TERRORISM insurance premiums are set to increase by up to 50 per cent, the second rise this year, after Saturday's bomb in the City of London.

Initial estimates of the cost of the bomb have been more than £1 billion, higher than the final cost of the bomb that hit St Mary Axe last spring.

Nicky Balcombe, managing director of Balcombe, the loss assessor, said he thought the mass of claims for property damage, removal expenses, finding alternative office space, communication costs and those for business interruption, the greatest of all, would exceed £1 billion.

But Tony Baker, a spokesman at the Association of British Insurers, said he thought the final cost would be between £300 million and £400 million. "The day after

the St Mary Axe bomb, loss assessors estimated the damage at £1.8 billion, this then fell to £1 billion before ending up at £320 million."

The bulk of the cost of the bombing is expected to be met by the government, with only a limited amount falling on the insurance industry. Roy Randall, a Royal Insurance spokesman, said: "As far as the companies are concerned there will not be a large impact because the majority of the risks are reinsured." This is because the insurers have been able to pass on most of the risk of acts of terrorism to the government after its decision last year to act as "insurer of last resort" through a special insurance vehicle.

A limited amount of cover is available from the insurance companies as part of general

commercial insurance policies, with any cover over and above that limit of up to £50,000 being provided as an add-on service. Since January, as policies have come up for renewal, companies have been paying the extra premiums that, in some cases, have been 100 per cent more than the cost of their normal commercial policies.

These premiums are then channelled into the special vehicle, a mutual fund called Pool Re, to provide cover for bomb attacks, with the government providing any shortfall.

In the case of Saturday's bomb, the amount the government will pick up is unclear because the size of the fund is not known. This is because until the government has gained appropriate authorisation by parliament, the premiums col-

lected by the insurers cannot be paid over to the fund and the taxpayers' contribution to the costs cannot be paid out.

Mr Baker said legislation should be brought forward from its planned mid-May date for the government's part of the bill to be paid. "There is no doubt the amount in Pool Re will be exhausted by the bomb and as a result the government will be significantly involved," he said.

Under the terms of Pool Re, the insurance companies and Lloyd's syndicates will pay a further 10 per cent of the fund's total premiums towards the cost and the government will pay the rest. As the funds of Pool Re had been wiped out by the latest attack the government would bear the full cost for any bombings for the rest of the year, Mr Baker added.

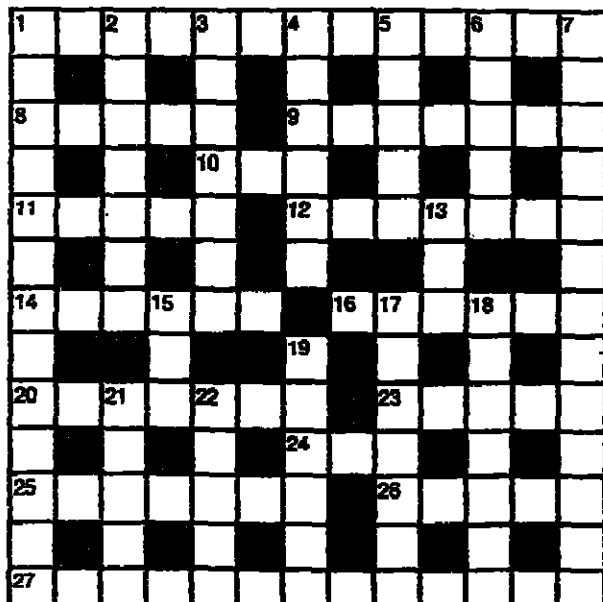
The implication of this is that the government may insist on a rise in premiums to mitigate its future losses and lower the burden on the taxpayer. A Lloyd's spokesman said premiums would rise any way as a result of the attack but it was too early to know by how much. But estimates range from a third to a half of existing levels. Lloyd's exposure to the costs was small, he added.

The extra cost may be applied to all mainland UK companies or just to those considered to be in prime target areas. Currently premiums are calculated by location, with businesses in City areas paying much more than those in rural areas. On top, companies located next to prime targets, such as railway stations, government buildings and construction projects

such as Canary Wharf, have an extra 50 per cent added on top.

John Greenway, Tory MP for Ryedale and chairman of the Commons insurance and financial services committee, said he expected the government to call for larger contributions into the pool from insurers, requiring significant premium rises (Jonathan Pynn writes).

Mr Greenway said the bill for the blast would lead to calls for the government to change its policy and cover the entire cost of all terrorist actions, as in Northern Ireland, which should be resisted. But he added there should be "urgent discussions" between the Treasury, the DTI, Lloyd's, the insurance industry and "all interested parties to thrash out the consequences of this for the pool scheme."



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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3081

ACROSS
1 Unanimously (4,3,6)
8 Nine singers group (5)
9 Nur confection (7)
10 Tiny (3)
11 Beneath (5)
12 First tanks battle (7)
14 Spanish sword city (6)
16 Be repentant (6)
20 Largest penguin (7)
23 Indian cone tent (5)
24 Over (3)
25 Supervised (7)
26 Spanish friend (5)
27 Following closely (3,2,3,5)

DOWN
1 A A Milne bear (6,3,4)
2 Melodious (7)
3 Superficial (7)
4 Anticipate (6)
5 Gulf (5)
6 Basket willow (5)
7 Set in opinion (4,2,3,4)
13 Hunting haul (3)
15 Devon river (3)
17 Pull out (7)
18 Corp (7)
19 Size increase (6)
21 Fabric fold (5)
22 Ascended (5)

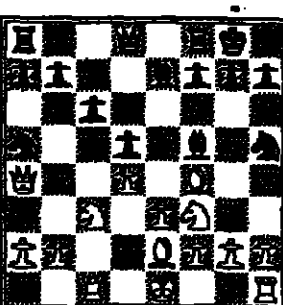
SOLUTIONS TO NO 3080

ACROSS: 1 Bluebell 5 Ibis 9 Nourish 10 Loser
11 Flak 12 Respect 14 Petite 16 Quahog 19 Cat's paw
21 Cossy 24 Manor 25 Nearest 26 Nick 27 Jeopardy
DOWN: 1 Bank 2 Usual 3 Brisket 4 Lahore 6 Reseach
7 Strategy 8 Alias 13 Spaceman 15 Titanic 17 Undasp
18 Twinge 20 Part 22 Steer 23 Stay

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent
This position is from the game Thorsteins - Marciano, Iceland 1993. In this harmless looking position, White found a sneaky way to win a pawn for nothing. Can you see how?

Solution on page 38



WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

DAN RUSSEL
a. A fox
b. A lupin cultivator
c. A hunt terrier

WALER
a. A naval pinnace
b. A cavalry horse
c. An air-raid alarm

CAPTAIN SWING

a. Tyburn tree
b. Chief of the rick-burners
c. Old pro at St Andrews

BEZONIAN

a. A citizen of Constantinople
b. A card game
c. A raw recruit

Answers on page 38

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